

How To Train Your Dragon Origins

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Category: How to Train Your Dragon

Genre: Adventure, Fantasy

Language: English

Characters: Astrid, Hiccup, Valka

Status: Completed

Published: 2014-08-30 03:37:13

Updated: 2015-08-19 04:41:25

Packaged: 2016-04-26 20:49:42

Rating: K+

Chapters: 21

Words: 33,745

Publisher: www.fanfiction.net

Summary: After the events of How To Train Your Dragon 2, there is only one question remaining: What will now become of Hiccup and friends? In this tale, the well-known dragon rider and his former companions think that nothing in the world will ever change in the tiny little village that they call Berk. However, what Hiccup does not know is that there a new, mysterious force that will come.

1. Too Much Ice

Chapter 1: Too much ice

"_Oh, how the mighty gods of Valhalla shine their light and glory to praise thy heroes noble and brave€|_"

"Elfrin, will you be quiet! You'll shatter the ice with those high notes!"

Elfrin Svendsen just shrugged skeptically and ran his spear-tipped shovel into the icy terrain. He was an ice digger. Ice digging became a new business ever since Hiccup became the new chief of Berk. As of now, Hiccup ordered the ice diggers to haul in new shipments of ice. And since Elfrin was new to the village, he eventually landed a job as an ice digger.

"Elfrin, I know you're the new guy, so I just want you to follow whatever these guys tell you," a man older than Elfrin said. His name was Hanson. He had brown hair, blue eyes, and wore an old battle suit. Hanson pushed his sword as hard as he could to cut through the ice. "Gosh, I didn't even know those blockheads hated my sea chanteys," Elfrin said. "They don't," Hanson said. "They just hate the way you sing them."

Pushing through the ice with their shears, the ice diggers raised their axes and chopped the ice into blocks. "Hoist the ice blocks!"

the head of the ice diggers yelled. Elfrin, along with Hanson, pushed the blocks into the wooden planks. Men on the ship pulled the ropes to lift the planks.

"So far, I think you're doing a good job," Hanson told Elfrin, patting him on the back. "I guess I am," Elfrin replied nervously. "I've never been this excited than the time I moved to berk with my mom." "Speaking of Berk," Hanson said, "I wonder what the chief's up to right nowâ€|"

Meanwhile, at the village, Hiccup had just returned home after a long day of running the village. Exhausted, he slumped on a chair next to the fire pit. "Tough day of being the new chief?" Valka asked her son. "Gosh, you won't believe what I had to go through today," Hiccup told his mother as he placed his legs on the tiny foot stool next to the fireplace. "First, I had to order the ice diggers to go to the Arctic Circle to haul in new shipments of ice. Then, I had to stop a feud between these two girls arguing over some guy they talk about all the time. Next, it was down to the Dragon Academy to teach the other guys on how to curb their dragons. Finally, I had to go back and babysit these two new kids, named North and Winter Star."

"Gosh, what a rough day," Valka said as she placed a bowl on the table, next to Hiccup's elbow. As soon as Hiccup caught a whiff of the meal, he immediately seized the bowl and began eating ravenously. "Ah, now what has gotten into my little boy?" Valka ased skeptically. "Mom, I'm all right," Hiccup said. "I was just hungry, that's all. Boy, is it tough being the leader." Of course," Valka replied. "Your father would have been very proud of you. Even she would be." "Who?" Hiccup asked. "Well," Valka started, "that would be yourâ€|"

Suddenly, the door burst open, and Astrid and Thorin came bounding in through the doorway. "Hey, how's the new chief today?" Astrid asked cheerfully. "Exhausted," Hiccup replied in agony. "My feet are killing me." "Gosh, I have that same feeling too when I'm out hunting with my dad," Thorin said, massaging Hiccup's right foot. "Thorin, that's gross! Don't do that!" Astrid said in distaste. "So what? He said his feet hurt a lot," Thorin replied. "Ah," Astrid said.

"Weeeeeeeeeell, I guess I better go home before Suidge chews up my pillows again," Thorin said, heading for the door. "Me too," Astrid said. "I bet Stormfly's wondering where I am right now." As the two girls headed for the door, they waved goodbye to Hiccup, who waved back.

After that, Hiccup turned to his mother. "What was that other person you were telling me about?" he asked. "Who?" Valka asked. "That person you referred to as 'she,'" Hiccup said. "I don't know who you're talking about," Valka said. "You forgot?" Hiccup asked. "Yes" Valka said again. Now Hiccup was confused, but he was too tired to remember why. He suddenly fell face first on the table, falling asleep. Valka watched as her son slept quietly, even snoring loudly. She then draped a blanket over Hiccup and carried him upstairs to his bedroom. Placing Hiccup on his bed, Valka leaned over and gently kissed Hiccup on his forehead. Then, she blew out the candle and left downstairs.

2. A Play Date of Destiny

Chapter 2: A Play Date of Destiny

On the next morning, while he slept, Hiccup began to hear a low dragon moan from nearby. Waking up, Hiccup found Toothless by his bedside, nudging him on the ribs playfully. "All right, all right—what do you want, bud?" Hiccup muttered lazily. Toothless bounded all across the room excitedly, waving his tail in the air. "Ah, I get it," Hiccup said. "You want to go flying, do you?" Toothless nodded in reply, finally hopping to Hiccup and licking him. "Ugh, Toothless!" Hiccup yelled in frustration. "I thought you would stop that!" Getting up, Hiccup gathered his things and rushed downstairs, with Toothless tagging along.

Downstairs, Valka was already up and ready, giving Cloudjumper his breakfast. Spotting Hiccup, Valka asked, "And where is my little dragon master heading to today?" "Oh, me and Toothless are just gonna head out and do some freestyle flying today," Hiccup said. "All right," Valka said. "Just don't hurt yourselves." "Okay bye!" Hiccup shouted as he left from the house.

Outside, Hiccup walked in a sauntering manner, lost in thought. "I don't get what Mom was talking about last night," he said to himself. "Why would she talk about another girl who somehow remembers me? Maybe it's just a conspiracy, or a hallucination, or some trance-induced—" Suddenly, Hiccup's conversation was cut off short after a rock was suddenly hurled at his foot, causing him to fall on the ground.

"Hey! Watch where you're hurling that—" Hiccup suddenly saw Astrid running toward him. She was being accompanied by two kids. One was a boy, and one was a girl. The boy had brown hair and wore a green tunic. The little girl had messy red hair and had on a light blue tunic.

"Oooooohh! A big dragon!" the little girl exclaimed, approaching Toothless. Toothless began to charge, but Hiccup stopped him. "Whoa, whoa, whoa Toothless, calm down," Hiccup said. "Don't hurt this kid; she's a friend." "I wanna touch the dragon!" the boy yelled, pulling Astrid's arm. "Astrid, you remember North and Winter, right?" Hiccup asked. "Oh yea, they're those two toddlers that you look after," Astrid replied. "Can I ride on the dragon? Please, please, please?" Winter asked, tugging Hiccup's arm. "Okay, okay, you can ride Toothless, since you're so adorable," Hiccup replied, picking up Winter and placing her on Toothless' back. Then, Hiccup, along with Winter and Toothless, began to walk toward the sea stacks.

"Wheee! This is fun!" Winter exclaimed. "It sure is," Hiccup said. "Do you and your brother have a dragon?" "Yea, it's a big one, named Spike," Winter said. "He's a Deadly Nadder." "Just like Stormfly," Hiccup said. After a moment, Winter stopped and pointed at something. "What's that over there?" she asked. Hiccup turned and saw a large, intricately carved stone palace. "I don't know," Hiccup said. "Let's go check it out." Then, Hiccup and Winter went to check it out.

As they arrived, Hiccup could not help but stare in awe at the majesty of the palace. It looked like it was carved out of a giant snowflake and was somehow turned to stone. Hiccup slowly approached the tall wooden doors. He raised his hand to knock, but paused for a

moment. "Go ahead. Just knock," Winter said. "Why don't you knock?" Hiccup finally knocked on the door, which opened suddenly. "Oh wow, it opened. Look at that," Hiccup said. Then, he held Winter's hand and went inside. Toothless, on the other hand, stayed outside.

Inside, the palace appeared much more graceful than outside. The inner walls were decorated with images of peacocks and thin dragons. "Whoa," Hiccup muttered in disbelief. Winter stared at all of the palace's beauty. Suddenly, her eyes spotted a beautiful tapestry. "Oooh, pretty!" Winter said, approaching. As she extended her hand toward it, a voice called, "Don't touch it." Hiccup and Winter turned to see a woman come down the stairs. The woman had flowing blonde hair, light brown eyes, and wore a beautiful blue and gold dress. Her hair was adorned with a silver crown.

"Oh, I'm very sorry, miss," Hiccup told the woman. "It's just that Winter here wanted to feel your tapestry." But the woman just kept approaching him slowly. "Are you even listening to me?" Hiccup said again. "I didn't even know that lived here outside ofâ€¦" Soon, the woman caressed Hiccup's face with both her hands. An expression of sadness filled her face. "You are just like your mother described you," she said. "So beautiful." Hiccup was mystified.

"My name is Altaira," the woman told Hiccup after he sat down on a smooth, wooden bench. "You must be Hiccup, no doubt." "Uh, yes I am," Hiccup said nervously. Taking a small cup and ladling something out of a giant kettle, Altaira handed the cup to Hiccup, saying, "Here. Have some tea." Hiccup grabbed it and slowly drank from. "So, how is your mother?" "Okay, I guess," Hiccup said. "How do you know her?" "I've known her since you were a wee lad," Altaira replied. "You looked a lot like your father, but you have your mother's eyes. Oh, and I still remember the day we anointed you." "Anointed me?" Hiccup asked. "Ah yes," Altaira replied. "It was a warm, clear day here in Berk. You looked so handsome in your brand-new clothes. Your father was there, your mother, and yourâ€¦"

Suddenly, the doors burst open, and a man stepped inside. He had smooth brown hair, blue eyes, and wore protective armor over his tunic. "Kristoff! You're early!" Altaira exclaimed. "What brings you here?" "Actually," Kristoff said, "I'm here for the boy." Turning to Hiccup, he said, "Chief, the ships have just arrived from the Arctic Circle. They've brought in large shipments of ice." "Uh, okay. I'll see to that now," Hiccup said. And muttering under his breath, he said, "And maybe never find out the truth about that mystery girl." As he and Kristoff walked out of the palace, Altaira said to herself, "He'll find out soon. Eventually."

3. Of Rebels and Reunions

Chapter 3: Of Rebels and Reunions

Later in the afternoon, Hiccup and Kristoff walked up to the docks, where the ice diggers had just arrived with large blocks of ice. They watched as two of the ice diggers, Elfrin and Hanson, were busy restraining the ice blocks and lowering them onto the wheelbarrows. Hiccup was also surprised to see Thorin and Astrid over there with their dragons as well.

As the other ice diggers were delivering the ice, Kristoff called to Elfrin and Hanson. "Hanson! Svendsen!" he yelled out. "The chief is here." The two boys eventually climbed off the ship and greeted Hiccup. Hanson, on the other hand, went over to Astrid and hugged her tightly. "Hanson!" Astrid yelled. "Stop it! I'm not a baby!" "Aw, how will I ever stay away from my favorite cousin and her pretty dragon?" Hanson said. "Hiccup," Astrid said, "you remember my cousin Hanson, right?" "Oh yea," Hiccup replied. "I hired him as an ice digger. And I know Elfrin is good friends with Thorin too," he said pointing to Thorin and Elfrin.

"So, have you delivered all the ice out yet?" Hiccup asked Hanson. "Sure did," Hanson said. "What with the coming of a really hot summer, we'll need plenty of water to drink and grow the veggies." "And with people asking for ice, those diggers really do need a lot of attention," Elfrin chimed in.

All through that afternoon, Hiccup turned out to be downright miserable. While covering inspection on the storage of food and supplies, he would mumble so low nobody would hear him. While demanding that every fisherman must reel in twenty pounds of fish, he curled up in a ball and moaned aimlessly. And during training at the Dragon Academy, he buried his face in Toothless's body and sobbed loudly. Astrid and Thorin wondered why Hiccup was acting like this. But Hiccup wanted the answer to that question: Who was that mystery girl?

As the sun set over the high peaks of Berk, Hiccup sat staring out into the horizon, lost in thought. Pretty soon, Astrid and Thorin arrived. They were also on top of their dragons, Stormfly and RockJaw. "Hey, Hiccup. What's eating you?" Astrid asked. "Nothing," Hiccup said. "It's just that I keep I thinking about what Mom was telling me the other day. She kept mentioning some girl that seems to have some connection with me." "Who is that girl?" Thorin asked Hiccup. "I don't know," Hiccup said. "Mom referred to that girl as 'she'. And Altaira mentioned her as somebody I know." "Wait-you met the maiden of Delsporin?" Astrid asked excitedly. "Yea. Why?" Hiccup asked. "Well, she was appointed to be one of the peacemakers here in Berk," Astrid said. "Yea," Thorin piped up. "I heard she came from a wealthy family up in Pines' Heaven."

Suddenly, Hiccup paused. He heard a strange booming noise. "What was that?" he said. Then, without warning, Astrid had a look of fear on her face. "Oh no," she said. "I see fire." Suddenly, Hiccup realized what was really happening. "Toothless," he muttered under his breath. "Come on guys, we gotta go."

And sure enough, Hiccup, the girls, and their dragons found Toothless cornered by a gang of rogue Vikings. "Well, what did it take for ye to blast our vessel like that, eh?" the leader of the gang shouted. "Psst, Toothless!" Hiccup whispered. "Over here!" Toothless tried to silently tiptoe toward his friend, but suddenly, one of those Vikings hurled an axe between the two, startling Toothless. Hiccup knew he and the others were in big trouble.

"Hurry! They're coming for us!"

Now Hiccup and his friends found themselves running deep into the woods. Elfrin and Hanson had seen what was going on, so they rushed in to help them. "Faster, Stormfly! Faster!" Hanson yelled while

riding Astrid's dragon despairingly. Thorin found it almost impossible to maneuver RockJaw through the dense forest. Hiccup, running alongside Toothless, knew that they weren't going to make it. But suddenlyâ€|

"OW! MY LEG!" Hiccup cried out in pain. He heard a sharp, piercing twang in the air, and felt a hot, burning pain on his right leg. Stumbling to the ground, Hiccup grasped his leg, his eyes welling up with tears. Astrid, Elfrin, and Hanson rushed to help him. "Oh, my Odin's ghost!" Astrid exclaimed. "Are you okay, Hiccup?" Hiccup was too pained to answer, but Thorin said timidly, "Uh, you guys might wanna hurry up!"

Now the rogue Vikings had the teens and their dragons cornered. "You've lost, boy!" the gang leader yelled. "Now your friends and your dragons finally belong to me! But first, I'll take you out!" He closed in on Hiccup with his sword, but suddenly, a voice yelled out, "Oh no you don't!" The other Vikings heard the cry, and they suddenly knew who it was. "The Shadow Gypsy," one of the warriors muttered.

Then, from out of nowhere, a mysterious figure wearing a black cape, a hand-carved wooden mask, and spike-covered cuffs leaped out of the trees and in front of the Vikings. Raising a staff capped with an axe blade, the figure attacked the Vikings with swift and agile force. "Who is that?" Astrid whispered. "I have no idea," Hanson replied quietly. Suddenly, the figure began waving the staff around, mimicking a dragon call. Then a large gray and green dragon swooped down and gave out a mighty roar. Frightened by the gigantic beast, the warriors finally retreated out of existence.

"Now that's how you perform a sonic boom, Thunderbolt," the figure said, patting the dragon's head. Finally turning to the other teens, the figure slowly approached them. Then, the figure knelt down next to Hiccup. Touching his cheek, the figure gasped.

"Hiccup?" the rider's feminine voice said. The figure finally took off the mask, revealing the face of a young woman. She had brown shaggy hair that was gathered in a braid. Her eyes were the same greenish hue as Hiccup's eyes. "Is it really you, Hiccup?" she said. "After all these years?" "Howâ€|do youâ€|know me?" Hiccup asked her. "I don't," the girl replied. "You were just a wee baby. But a sister never forgets her own."

"Wait a minute, you mean to tell me you're Hiccup's sister?!" Thorin exclaimed. "It's true," the girl said. "My name is Kida. I'm Hiccup's older sister, and the most experienced. I didn't even know I'd find him until now, andâ€|oh my Thor's thunder, his leg's hurt." "Oh, his leg?" Astrid said, cradling Hiccup's head. "Oh, you see, he sort of lost his leg five years ago from a dragon attack." No, not that," Kida said nervously. "I mean, Hiccup's leg is hurt. It's bleeding." And sure enough, there was blood oozing out of Hiccup's leg. "Well, we can't return him to the village now," Hanson said. "He'll bleed to death once we get there." "Don't worry," Kida said. "I have a plan. I know someone who can heal his leg. It's not too far from here."

Kida turned to Toothless quietly. Using a variety of hand signals and animal calls, she gave Toothless a command. Toothless then grabbed Hiccup's shirt collar with his mouth and placed him on RockJaw's back. Soon, Kida and the other teens walked toward the deep

forests.

4. Sorcery How Long

Chapter 4: Sorcery How Long

Walking deeper into the forest, Kida checked to see if the others were following behind her. Then, she turned to Toothless, who was sauntering by her side. She found that Hiccup was curled up and trembling from the shivering cold, so Kida took off her cape and covered him. Now the group reached a bad part of the woods.

"Yuck. Do I detect the savory mixture of pig's blood mixed with ground up cloves of garlic?" Elfrin said, wrinkling his nose. "Ugh, I smell it too," Astrid pointed out while Stormfly shook her head at the awful stench. "I can't believe you can actually withstand that odor, Kida," Hanson said. "Me too," Thorin said, holding her nose while covering RockJaw's snout. "We're here," Kida said as she and Thunderbolt approached a small tent on the edge of a tree. Grabbing Hiccup from Toothless's back, Kida advised the dragons to stay outside while she and the others entered the tent.

Inside, the tent was dark and humid. There were shelves containing animal skulls, jars of herbs, bowls of spices, and small cauldrons full of animal blood, water, and steaming broths. Thorin seemed frightened at the scene, but Astrid told her to just be cool. Then, Kida drew back a tattered curtain and found a dark-skinned young woman ladling something out of a large cauldron. She had ebony black hair, purple eyes, and wore a ragged violet dress with long black boots.

"Naishara?" Kida asked the woman. The woman turned to face Kida. "What be the doin's of right now?" Naishara asked. "Please help me," Kida said. "It's my brother. He's hurt bad." "Well, strange things happenin' at the tempis'" Naishara replied. "Come, let me have a look at the child." Kida handed Hiccup to Naishara, and then Naishara examined his wound. "This wound," she said. "The doin's of rogue Vikings. A wound this big has no reason to be left. But I'll heal it, for sake of your life."

Later, Kida, Astrid, Elfrin, Hanson, and Thorin were seated on the dirt floors beside a wooden cot where Hiccup laid down. Naishara then returned with a staff capped with an eagle's skull and holding a bottle. Kneeling down next to Hiccup, Naishara told Kida, "Remove his shoe." Working silently but swiftly, Kida, along with Astrid, managed to remove Hiccup's leg garters and take his boot off. Now, all that was left was Hiccup's foot, which was pale and bare. A huge bloody scar was grazed into his ankle.

Lighting a twig with a match, Naishara dipped the twig into the bottle. Soon, the flames turned into a violent shade of blue. Grabbing the flames with her free hand, Naishara soon intertwined the small blaze. Astrid and the others watched in awe at this practice. Soon, Naishara started reciting a mantra in a language that the others could not understand. Claspng the flames in her hands, Naishara then rubbed the blaze on Hiccup's ankle. Then, she smeared the wound with mud and wrapped it in a tight bandage. But Hiccup was still asleep.

Soon, after Hanson and Astrid managed to carry Hiccup and place him on Toothless, Kida stayed to talk with Naishara. "Wound was grazed pretty bad, but he still make it through the night. Because he not the weak one," Naishara said. Then, she gave Kida a small elixir. "This vial will help him recover," she said. "Give it to him the next mornin' when he awakens. To help him recover." "Thanks Naishara," Kida said. "I didn't know what I'd do without you."

During the walk back home, Astrid kept asking Kida, "Why does that girl speak in a different language?" "Because she's from an island in Barbados," Kida replied. "She left after she was branded a witch by her community, and she also got kidnapped by pirates." "How did she escape?" Thorin asked. "Let's just say I helped her escape from the ship with Thunderbolt," Kida said. "Youâ€|rescued Naishara?" Astrid asked. "That's what I do. I help those who are in trouble. I noticed how you guys were running from those bandits, so I came to help you out."

After Astrid and the others finally made it back to their rightful homes, Kida, along with Toothless and Thunderbolt, brought Hiccup back home. Sneaking in through a hole in the roof, Kida placed Hiccup on his bed and covered him with his blanket. "See you tomorrow," Kida said quietly as Hiccup slept for the rest of the endless night.

5. Distant Memories

Chapter 5: Distant Memories

On the next morning, Hiccup awakened to the sound of Terrible Terrors squawking in the sunlight. Hiccup felt dazed but exhausted. His head pounding and his body aching, Hiccup still had enough strength to sit up straight. He smelled something sweet nearby, and he found a bowl full of soup on his nightstand.

"Weird," Hiccup said. "Last night, I dream that some dark-skinned girl touches my foot, and next morning I find a bowl of soup on my desk." Grabbing the bowl, he tasted the soup. "Mmm," Hiccup said. "I bet Thorin probably made this." "That's because she did," a voice said. Hiccup turned to find Kida sliding down from the rooftop window. "And you thought that I'd find you hungrier than a newborn bear cub."

"So, let me get this straight: You're my sister?" Hiccup asked Kida. "That's right," Kida said, sitting by his bedside. "How did you even survive?" Hiccup asked. "Aw, old Thunderbolt never meant to hurt me, that's all," Kida said, stroking Thunderbolt's skin. "But I never knew you existed," Hiccup said. "It's like I have dÃ©jÃ vu all over again." "That's because before I ran away, I swore you to secrecy," Kida said, gently touching Hiccup's cheek.

Suddenly, Hiccup and Kida heard footsteps coming up to the room. It was Valka, holding a cup of tea. "All right, my dear," Valka said as she came in. "Here's a nice warm cup of tea to refresh yourâ€|" As soon as Valka caught sight of Kida, she dropped the cup in selfless astonishment. "And I am soooo grounded," Kida muttered under her breath.

Mum, I know what you're gonna say," Kida said, standing up. "I know you loved me, but after what happened, I couldn't bear it any longer."

So you have to ask, 'Why couldn't I just stay?'" But Valka just kept approaching Kida without even speaking. "Mum, stop being so stoic," Kida said, her voice rising. "You always treated me like someone I'm not! But you wouldn't even understand it if you tried!" Valka was nearly approaching Kida. "Are you even listening?" Kida said loudly. "Why don't just say somethingâ€| But Valka gently touched Kida's face. A single tear fell from her eyes. "Even after twenty years, you still look beautiful," Valka whispered silently. Now Kida felt like crying as Valka stroked her hair and embraced her. Burying her face in Valka's neck, Kida whispered, "I missed you so much."

"I can't believe it," Valka said. "My little Ki-Ki. Now you look like a grown woman." "Ki-Ki?" Hiccup asked. "Oh, right," Kida said. "When we were kids, Mum gave us cute nicknames. She called you Wormy, and I was Ki-Ki." "Unbelievable," Hiccup said. "Mom called me a worm." "Plus," Kida started, "I saved this after I was gone." She reached into her pack and pulled out a cloth. Unfolding it, she revealed a tapestry. Hiccup saw some very familiar faces on it: his father Stoick, his mother Valka, and himself. Then, he noticed the little girl standing next to his cradle. She had a strong resemblance to Kida. "We got this the day we anointed you into the tribe," Kida said. "And I still remember that dayâ€|"

XX

It was a warm, clear summer day in Berk. Three-year-old Kida was sauntering by Valka, who held little Hiccup in her arms. Hiccup was outfitted in a bright blue tunic that covered his legs, And Kida was wearing a tight-fitting yellow dress with her little black boots. "Mummy," Kida complained, "why do I have to wear this?" "Because your little brother is going to be anointed today," Valka said. "And I expect you to look your very best." Kida frowned, but Stoick knelt down and told her, "Aw don't you worry now, darlin'. You can still play with your friends afterward.

Inside the palace, every Viking rose as Valka, Stoick and their children entered the palace. There, the family found a young Kristoff waiting for them. Catching a glimpse of the child, Kristoff smiled. He pulled out a tiny wooden rattle from his pocket and waved it in front of Hiccup. Smiling and giggling, Hiccup attempted to grab the rattle from Kristoff. Then, Kristoff grabbed a bowl of blue ceremonial paint and, stirring it with his fingers, dabbed the paint on Hiccup's forehead. Taking some white sand, he sprinkled it on Hiccup, who sneezed loudly. But Valka and Stoick just laughed. Finally taking the baby, Kristoff motioned for Valka, Kida and Stoick to come forward.

Kristoff finally walked over to the maiden Altaira, who wore a flowing white dress and a silver tiara. "My dear citizens," Altaira said, "today is a joyous occasion. We have come forth to celebrate the welcoming of a new child into the village of Berk." Kristoff handed the child to Altaira, and then the maiden finally lifted her hand. "As a representative of my native Pine's Heaven and this village," Altaira explained, "I hereby welcome this child into the village, where he shall be known asâ€|Hiccup Horrendous Haddock the Third." Finally lifting Hiccup, the crowd burst into a lively cheer.

XX

"So that was what Altaira was trying to tell me," Hiccup said, petting Toothless's head. "It's true," Kida said. "Even after all these years, this place still feels like home to me. And Mum here still treats me like a lady." "That's right," Valka said to her. "And don't slouch so much; you'll make your back crooked." "Right back at ya," Kida said contemptuously.

"So," Kida said, "you're not mad, Mum?" "Mad?" Valka said. "Why would I be mad? I've loved you for a long time, And I never knew you spent your whole life looking for me. But who cares? I've prayed my entire life that you will come back! My daughter has returned!"

Hiccup was too excited to speak. He could practically feel the blood rushing into his body. "I can't believe it," Hiccup said, getting up. "Kida's my sister." Walking over to Kida, Hiccup embraced her tightly. Joyfully, he exclaimed, "I have a sister! I have a twin sister!" Toothless, Cloudjumper, and Thunderbolt all squealed with exuberance as mother, daughter, and son rejoiced with love and excitement.

6. Catching Up with Sister

Chapter 6: Catching Up With Sister

"So, my little brother," Kida started, "you're psyched to find out that I was your sister?" "Yes I am!" Hiccup exclaimed. "I never realized it until now! I finally found a sister!" "Oh, I almost forgot," Kida said, pulling out the vial that Naishara gave her the night before. "Hiccup, drink this. It'll help with your leg." "But if I'm supposed to drink it," Hiccup said, "why will it help with my leg?" "Just drink it," Kida said. Hiccup then seized the vial and drank from it. The taste was horrible, but Hiccup managed to gulp down every last drop of the rancid tonic. "Good boy," Kida said to Hiccup. "Good boy."

"I've always loved you like a brother," Kida told Hiccup. "I always knew you were so special." "Thanks," Hiccup said. "I still remember the day you were born," Kida said, giggling. "I remembered hearing Mum shouting at Daddy, 'Stoick! Stoick! Fetch the nursemaid! We're having a baby!'" Hiccup laughed when she said this; Kida did make a very good impersonation of Valka.

"Speaking of which," Kida said, "where is Daddy? I want to see if he's still the way I remember him." "I'm afraid you can't," Hiccup said, "'cause Dad has unfortunatelyâ€¦passed." "You meanâ€¦" Kida said, choking on her words, "he'sâ€¦dead?" "Yep," Hiccup said. "But Dad's still hereâ€¦in my heart." "Gosh," Kida said tearfully. "I never knew about it that way."

As Kida and Hiccup walked together through the village, Hiccup had a question in his mind. "Kida," Hiccup said, "if you were born first, shouldn't you be the new leader of Berk?" "Because there was a law," Kida said. "The law said that if a chief's first-born child turned out to be a girl, then that child is ineligible to become the next chief of Berk until the previous one reaches death." "Wait, you remember the exact day I was born?" Hiccup said in amazement. "Yep," Kida said. "I remember it like it was a few years agoâ€¦"

XX

_For almost eighteen months after she had welcomed her beautiful daughter Kida into the world, Valka was already pregnant with a second child. Stoick hoped that the new baby would be a boy, so that this new child would become the soon-to-be leader of Berk. Kida wondered why her parents wanted a boy so badly. _

_One night, Kida was sleeping in her bedroom when she heard Valka screaming, "Stoick! Wake up! The baby's coming!" And sure enough, Kida saw her father rushing out the door, then she entered her parents' room and found Valka clutching her middle and undergoing severe labor pains. A few hours later, Stoick burst into the room with a nursemaid by his side. As Valka was in massive labor, Kida stood by, sneaking a peek. By that time, Valka was screaming loudly and soon, a soft crying sound was heard. Kida was motioned by Stoick to come over and soon, little Kida found her mother holding a bundle of blankets that held a tiny baby boy. "Kida," Valka said, "say hello to your new baby brother." "What's his name?" Kida asked. At that moment, the baby hiccupped. "I know," Stoick told Valka. "We will call our new son Hiccup." _

XX

"So, you remember me as a baby?" Hiccup said. "I have," Kida told him. "You were such a joy to have, but also a bit of a pain in the butt. You always cried a lot during the middle of the night." "I did?" Hiccup asked. "Yes," Kida said. "You wanted to be with Mummy, so you always cried for her attention." "And you loved me for that?" Hiccup asked. "Yea," Kida said passionately. "But that was before!" "Before what?" Hiccup said again. Kida looked at him and said, "Before that day!"

XX

_Back then, Berk used to be a land in which the man was either "kill or be killed." On that fateful night, there was a massive dragon attack in the village. Stoick had gone to fight, so he told little Kida to stay in the house with her baby brother. Hiccup was frightened by what was going on, but Kida stuck to his side. Many hours went by, and Kida was worried about her parents. Suddenly, she found a large dragon breaking into the house and entering the family room. The dragon noticed Kida and baby Hiccup and edged closer to them. _

_Kida braced herself for a fiery attack, without noticing her mother Valka rushing inside to protect the children. But suddenly, things took an unusual turn when Kida saw the dragon playing with her baby brother. Kida took a moment to watch the gentle beast staring at little Hiccup. Then, something startled the dragon into leaving the baby, accidentally scarring Hiccup's chin. Hiccup began to cry, and Kida was desperately trying to silence him. _

_Suddenly, Stoick broke into the house with an axe, frightening the dragon into flying away! with Valka clutched at its heels. Stoick ran to get Hiccup and then seized Kida's arm, but they were too late. They watched helplessly as the dragon carried Valka away into the

night._

XX

"We nearly died that night, all because Mummy tried to make peace between Vikings and dragons," Kida said. "It killed my heart to see those dragons take part of our family away." "Well, you know this place," Hiccup said. "I was really depressed," Kida explained. "So that was what drove me to search for Mum." Hiccup felt sorry for her, but he knew that she is now back with her real family, together at last.

7. Overdue Introductions

Chapter 7: Overdue Introductions

Since Hiccup finally discovered that he had a significant twin sister of his past, he decided that it was time he introduced Kida to his friends. During that afternoon, he found Kida with Cloudjumper, who was nuzzling Kida on the hips. "Kida," Hiccup said. "Yes, brother dear?" Kida answered back to him. "How, uhâ€¦how would you like to meet my other close friends?" Hiccup asked. "I don't know," Kida said. "I think they might be totally shocked to see me." "Trust me, you'll be fine," Hiccup replied, grabbing his sister's hand and guiding her toward the door.

Once they were outside, Hiccup began to lead his sister to meet with the other villagers in order to show them that he has another significant person from his past. Along the way, he passed by the blacksmith's shop. Inside, Hiccup went to fetch Gobber. "Well, good mornin', Hiccup!" Gobber said rather cheerfully. "I see you're up and about today." "Yea, today's been kinda crazy lately," Hiccup replied. Kida, on the other hand, was tinkering with the metal and tools on the worktable, accidentally dropping a spiked hammer. Suddenly, Gobber's attention turned toward Kida. "And you've brought a girl with ya!" he exclaimed. "Uh, wait," Hiccup said. "There's something you should know about her." "Aye," Gobber replied. "I think she's well-suited for your type. She'll make a perfectâ€¦" "You don't get it!" Hiccup shouted. "She's my twin sister!"

Gobber was suddenly confused. Staring at Kida and then turning to Hiccup, he couldn't understand what Hiccup just said. "Gobber," Hiccup started, "you don't know this, but Kida and Iâ€¦are related to each other." "How confusing," Gobber muttered. "And here I am, thinking that she's your perfect suitor." "Well, it is very nice to meet you, erâ€¦Gobber," Kida said nervously.

After the unexpected "greeting", Hiccup decided to go to the Dragon Academy to let Kida meet the other riders. "I'm still not so sure about this," Kida told Hiccup. "What if they start asking me a ton of questions?" "You'll be fine," Hiccup said. "I'm positive that they'll find you to be quite interesting." At that moment, Hiccup saw Toothless bounding up the path, with Thunderbolt on his tail. "And maybe they might see how wonderful your dragon will be," Hiccup said to his sister.

As they arrived at the Dragon Academy, Hiccup took his sister inside. He found Astrid and the other riders, with their dragons, waiting for him. "Afternoon, m'lady," Hiccup told Astrid. "Where have you been?"

"Waiting for you. What else?" Astrid replied. "The real question is: Where have YOU been?" "Well," Hiccup said, "let's just say that I've been reallyâ€¦|" "Hey, who's the chick behind you?" Snotlout interrupted. "Oh, her," Hiccup continued. "Guys, meet my sister Kida."

"Even you guys would never realize the fact that Hiccup here had another significant figure of his past," Astrid told the other riders as they began circling around Hiccup's sister. For Kida, this was a strange, new experience for her. Even the boys wouldn't stop swooning over her striking appearance. "Hey there, pretty lady," Snotlout told Kida. "The name's Snotlout. And you areâ€¦|" "Way too old for you," Kida replied smugly. "How is it even possible that this chick is related to you?!" Fishlegs exclaimed in astonishment. "It's true," Hiccup said. "We both look different, yet we have the same DNA."

Suddenly, without warning, Thunderbolt and Toothless broke into the arena and charged toward the other riders. The two dragons looked frightened to death. "Hey bud," Hiccup told Toothless. "What's going on? I thought I told you and Thunderbolt to stay outside the arena." Now Hiccup realized why the two dragons were running. He turned and saw North and Winter running into the arena and chasing the dragons.

"Winter!" Astrid snapped at Winter, who stopped running immediately. "Who gave you and your brother permission to come into the Dragon Academy? You two shouldn't be wandering off by yourselves, especially when you're out on your own!" Suddenly, Winter's eyes welled up with tears. Then, Hiccup scooped her up, hugging her. "Astrid," Hiccup said, "you shouldn't punish Winter so hard; she's just a kid. She's barely learning to control herself." "Iâ€¦|I just wanted to pet the pretty dragon," Winter said through her tears.

"Aw, what a beautiful pair of children!" Kida exclaimed as she caught a glimpse of North and Winter. She noticed Winter silently crying, and she took her off of Hiccup's hands. "What's wrong, little one?" Kida asked the sobbing girl. "Oh, she's just sad because Astrid kinda went too aggressive on her and North," Hiccup assured her. "Oh? Why is that?" Kida asked. "I wanted to pet the big dragon," North said. "Me too," Winter replied.

"Whoa, is that a Wildwing dragon?" Fishlegs exclaimed as he caught a glimpse of Thunderbolt. "Those dragons are really rare! Finding one alive is such a big thing for me!" "So you've guys met old Thunderbolt," Kida said, putting Winter down. "Yep, he's my dragon. Old chum's been with me ever since I found him." "Funny how that dragon got attracted to you," Ruffnut said with a sly wink. "You're telling me," Tuffnut replied with a shrug. "I know. Isn't it great to have a psychic connection with a dragon?" Thorin asked while hugging RockJaw's neck.

After greeting the other riders and their dragons, Hiccup and Kida, along with North, Winter, and the dragons, strolled out of the arena. Along the way, Hiccup ran into Altaira, who was walking with Kristoff. "Hi Altaira," Hiccup said. "Hello Hiccup," Altaira replied. "How have you been? "You're not gonna believe this," Hiccup started, "but meet my sister Kida." As soon as he introduced Kida to Altaira, a sudden wave of terror filled Altaira's face. She then walked off, with Kristoff at her heels. "What was that?" Hiccup said. "I don't

know," Kida said. "But I'll try to see what it is."

8. A New Fate?

Chapter 8: A New Fate?

"Altaira, are you there?"

Hiccup opened the door of Altaira's palace halfway open. He managed to catch a glimpse of Altaira sitting on her chair, staring listlessly to the fire. "Oh yes Hiccup," Altaira said. "Please come in." Hiccup then entered the palace and sat down next to Altaira.

Pouring a cup of tea, Altaira motioned for Hiccup to sit down. "Altaira, what just happened there?" Hiccup asked. "Why'd you run off like that when I introduced you to my sister?" "It is nothing of your personal affairs," Altaira replied hastily, turning away. "What's wrong?" Hiccup asked again. "What's going on? Talk to me. Just talk to me." "Okay, I'll tell you," Altaira said, caressing Hiccup's cheek. "The truth is, there is a law here regarding your sister."

"Law?" Hiccup asked. "Yes," Altaira said, brushing wisps of hair from her face. "Back then, the Viking council of Berk declared a law regarding the inauguration of a new chief. It said that a new chief would be considered ineligible to rule the village unless he appoints a relative or spouse as a second in command adviser. That means that you may have to appoint your sister to be the First Lady of Berk."

"You mean I have to appoint Kida to rule alongside me?" Hiccup asked in confusion. "You've probably got this all wrong. My sister would hate the idea. You've seen what she looks like. She wouldn't even be a proper lady with her wild hair and warrior status." "I know," Altaira said sternly. "Back when she was just a wee daisy, Kida would often fight with Valka about her desire to make her daughter a distinguished lady. Your father even agreed with your sister and tried to convince Valka to let Kida's spirit roam free."

Outside, Hiccup found Toothless lying on the ground, swishing his tail impatiently. "Well bud," Hiccup said. "Altaira said it. I can't be the new chief unless Kida becomes my second in command." Toothless moaned something in reply. "You're right," Hiccup said. "Kida's gonna hate the idea. But you know what Altaira said. Kida would never be the First Lady of Berk, even if she did want to. After all these years, Mom pushed her to be the best, but now she's overjoyed at her return." Stroking Toothless's back, Hiccup went to tell his friends the news.

Astrid and Thorin were already waiting as Hiccup approached them. "So," Astrid said, "what did she say?" "She said," Hiccup started, "that I can't be chief unless Kida is appointed as my second in command adviser." "Are you crazy?!" Thorin exclaimed. "She wouldn't even say yes to that!" "As soon as she said this, her dragon RockJaw roared in defense. "I know you agree, but don't roar like that," Thorin whispered, stroking RockJaw's ear. "I don't know," Astrid told Hiccup. "You saw what Kida looks like. She's gonna have to dress like a lady to be your adviser. You know she'll reject it if you tell

her."

"I know," Hiccup said. "But Mom'll be crushed if Kida leaves her forever. I remember one time, Kida told me, when she was constantly being pressured by Mom to be a proper lady. And I even remembered Dad telling her, 'You've got to find what you love and be the best that you are.' I don't want to lose Kida ever again."

"Well, if I were you, I'd tell Kida directly rather than just hide the truth from her," Astrid told Hiccup. "For the last time, how am I gonna come straight to her? She'll say no the first chance she gets," Hiccup said. "Figure it out," Astrid told him, then she walked away, with Thorin teetering behind her.

"What am I gonna do?" Hiccup asked Toothless. "I don't know if I should tell Kida about it. What if she hates the idea of being the First Lady of Berk? Then she'll probably run away from home forever, just like she did back then. But Mom will be so disappointed. You have no idea how much Kida had to suffer just to find Mom." Toothless, on the other hand, just shrugged and nuzzled Hiccup's hand. "You're right bud," Hiccup said. "I should probably tell my sister. Then I just have to give her time to think on the situation. Maybe she'll understand soon enough."

That evening, during supper, Hiccup stared listlessly into the fireplace, stirring his spoon nonchalantly. Valka spotted Hiccup lying on the table, so she went over to talk to him. "What's wrong, dear? You've hardly touched your dinner," Valka said. "Oh, it's nothing really, Mom," Hiccup replied. "Well, I'm just glad you're still okay," Valka replied back. "Now fix yourself up. It's almost time for dinner."

A little while later, Kida arrived into the house. "Hello, sister dear," Hiccup said while setting the table. "Where have you been?" "Ridin' Thunderbolt. What else?" Kida said. "My question is: Where have YOU been?" "Oh, just helping Mom out at home," Hiccup said, finally sitting down to eat. Kida smiled and placed her axe-blade staff on the table. "Kida," Valka said, "a lady does not place her weapons on the table." "Ugh, Mum," Kida said in disgust. "It's just my axe blade." "It doesn't matter," Valka said again. "A lady is not supposed to have weapons either." "Aw Mom, leave her be," Hiccup said, defending his sister.

During the supper, Valka decided that Hiccup should tell her what his situation is. "Hiccup," Valka said, "is there something you wanted to share with me?" Hiccup swallowed hard, then took a moment to compose himself.

"Okay, here goes," Hiccup said. "I had a talk with Altaira this afternoon. I asked what was going on. She told me that I can't be the new chief yet." "Why not?" Valka asked. "Okay," Hiccup said. "Funny thing is, I'm not the new chief yet, unlessâ€¦|unlessâ€¦|" "Unless what?" Kida asked. "Unless," Hiccup said, then gulping nervously, "unless Kida becomes the new First Lady of Berk."<p>

"First Lady of Berk?" Valka asked in astonishment. "What an exciting honor! That means Kida will rule alongside you!" "What do you mean, 'rule alongside him?'" Kida asked. "It means that one day, you'll become the new maiden of Berk!" Valka said. "No, no, no, you got this all wrong," Kida said.

"What do you mean?" Hiccup asked. "I mean that I'm not going to do it," Kida said, growing angry. "What?" Valka said. "They're making me the First Lady of Berk?" Kida said, rising from the table in protest. "It's not what you think," Hiccup said. "Altaira told me that you have to rule alongside me in order for me to become the new chief." "Altaira told you that I have to be the miserable little damsel who has to be the second in command?!" Kida said angrily. "Kida, calm down," Valka said. "This will be an exciting new opportunity for you. I just want you to accept the fact that you're growing up and you must learn to—" "I DON'T CARE!" Kida shouted, her voice rising. "I want to follow my own destiny, not pretend to be someone else! You're turning me into someone I'm not!" "Kida, a lady does not raise her voice!" Valka said angrily.

Kida stared at Valka for a long time, then she stormed out of the house in heated anger. Hiccup could not help but stare in helpless emotion. "Mom, are you okay?" he asked. "Yes, I'm fine," Valka said, finally calming herself. "She'll be okay," Hiccup said. "She just needed to blow off some steam, that's all."

After helping Valka clean the table, he walked to the front door. Toothless was waiting for him. "Well, I told her," Hiccup said. "And things kind of went pretty bad. Kida's against the idea." Toothless gave Hiccup a look that said, "Well you shouldn't have told that in front of Kida in the first place." "I know," Hiccup said, "but it has to be made. What should I do?"

9. Unwilling to rule, Unwilling to leave

Chapter 9: Unwilling to rule, Unwilling to leave

Later that night, after supper, Valka went to look for Kida after she stormed out of the house. Kida was outside by the pole, angrily beating it with her axe. "Kida," Valka said, "can you let me speak for just a minute?" "Ugh, what do you want now, Mum?" Kida blurted out in frustration. "Can't you see that I'm beating my own anger out?" "Look, this chance will help your brother. I'm sure of it," Valka said. "Mum, there's always a reason to back out of a situation," Kida said. "Having to be the chief's command?! I'd rather not rule at all!"

Valka could see that Kida was still refusing, so she had to consider something else. "Kida," she said, walking to a small shed in the corner, "legend tells of a wise and noble ruler—" "Ugh, Mum," Kida muttered. She knew her mother was telling her the same story over and over again.

"This ruler," Valka said, pulling out a small wooden figurine, "led the most powerful kingdom in the world. But as he grew old, however, he needed a way to keep his kingdom standing." She then placed the wood box atop four other figurines. "He had decided to divide his kingdom among his two sons and daughters." There were two male figurines and two female figurines sustaining the box.

"But," Valka told Kida once more, "the king's oldest daughter rejected the offer and, with great selfishness and anger," Valka then snatched one of the female figurines from the stool, causing it to collapse, "spread terror and death throughout the land. And no other living soul had survived to tell the tale." "Mum, why do you always

tell me that stupid story all the time?" Kida asked in disgust. "It's just nothing but a boring old legend." "Legends aren't just stories," Valka said. "They teach lessons."

"Yea, so?" Kida said. "Legend or not, I'm still not going to comply with your feverish efforts to turn me into the person you want me to be!" "Kida, a lady does not talk back to her mother," Valka said sternly. "You need to understand that—" "That I'm not going to be some weak damsel about to rule the most powerful Viking tribe alive!" Kida shouted, storming off.

Inside, Valka was quietly painting a family portrait, silently and angrily whispering curses under her breath. "You're muttering," Hiccup said. "No, I don't mutter," Valka said. "I know that look," Hiccup said. "I can tell something's going. What is it?" "It's your sister," Valka explained. "She still disagrees with your decision to make her your second in command." "Well, if you'd just talk to her, she'll understand," Hiccup said.

"Yes, I do talk to her," Valka said. "The problem is, she never listens to me." "Of course, she'll listen to you," Hiccup said. "Here, pretend I'm Kida, and talk to me." "Why would you want me to do that?" "You're my son," Valka said. "Look, this will help you talk to Kida better," Hiccup said.

As soon as Hiccup composed himself, he began to imitate Kida talking to Valka. Taking a deep breath, he began, "Now, as Kida—..But Mum, I don't want to be second in command! I want to stay single and let myself dance with the wind as I ride atop my dragon, soaring into the sunset!"

Valka gave Hiccup a sarcastic look, then finally composed herself. "Kida," Valka told Hiccup (acting as Kida), "I love you, and I want what's best for you. I just want you to realize that some things happen the way they do. And some people have to accept that. All I want for you is to be happy. I want you to realize that your actions will benefit you and the village. All you have to do is just listen."

"Okay, that seemed to work pretty well," Hiccup said. "Now, if I could just try it out and talk to Kida in real life." Walking outside, Hiccup waved to his mother, saying, "Good luck, my boy."

Outside, Hiccup found Kida on the rooftop, quietly feeding Thunderbolt some raw fish. "Kida?" Hiccup said. "What do you want?" Kida muttered angrily. "Don't you know I'm still going through a lot of mixed emotions right now?" "I know that," Hiccup said. "But Mom told me to tell you that she wants you to do this because she wants what's best for you."

"What's best for me?" Kida said. "Consider this: Have you ever asked your own parents about your wishes? I've never had that before, so why do you think I live like this? 'Cause nobody ever listens to my desires."

Meanwhile, inside the house, Valka repeated her imaginary conversation over and over again. "Kida," she told herself, "sometimes, people do not always want what they fight for. It's in everyone's nature."

"Nothing is like the things you want me to do," Kida said, outside from the house.

"But there are moments when we all have to adjust to reality," Valka told herself. "What do you expect us to do?"

"Just call off the coronation!" Kida told Hiccup, who was listening intently.

"But everything's all arranged now," Valka tells herself. "You can't change it now."

"But I just want choose my own fate," Kida said. "I want to be free."

"But what will your freedom cost you?" Valka asked.

"Just as long as I don't have to be weak."

"But you are not weak."

"I really want my destiny to be defined as how I'd want it to be."

"Yes, but there would be slight drawbacks."

"I know, but at least I'll be free from all harm."

"But just do me at least one thing."

"Let me ask one thing from you."

"Just listen to me."

"Just listen," Kida said. But the conversation only seemed to put Thunderbolt to sleep. "I know what you're going through, Kida," Hiccup said. "But being crowned the second in command isn't like the end of the world or something." Kida took a deep breath and sighed. "Hiccup," Kida said. "What is it?" Hiccup said.

"Iâ€¦I was just thinking about those times when our family used to go picnicking by the stream in the woods," Kida said. "That was one of my most favorite memories," Hiccup said. "And all those times when you used to cry from hours on end; I never forgot about that," Kida said.

"You remember everything that happened when I was little," Hiccup said. "Yea," Kida said. "You came so early into this world; you were just so weak and little. It was like putting a fishbone in among the strong beings. And I still remember your lullaby." "My what?" Hiccup asked.

"Hiccup," Kida said, embracing her brother, "back when you were just a wee lad, I often sang you this song to keep you from crying; it's a really pretty song, and all those years I've remembered it. It kinda went something like thisâ€¦" Kida hummed a few bars and sang:

"Hush now, my brother

Please don't you cry
Sleep as you watch me
In my arms.
Sleep and remember
My soothing lullaby.
And I'll be with you
When you dream."

At that moment, Hiccup's eyes began to fill with tears. He suddenly remembered everything he never knew about. "I never knew you always protected me," Hiccup said. "That's why I had to run away from this place," Kida said. "So that I'd search for the truth." "You could've protected all of us," Hiccup said. "Good point," Kida said. Then, Hiccup and Kida laid on the roof, watching the stars for the rest of the night.

10. The Big Day

Chapter 10: The Big Day

On the next morning, people from all over the village came to celebrate the crowning of the new chief of Berk. Altaira had decided that this occasion should be celebrated as soon as possible. And, as usual, people everywhere were struggling to prepare for the big day today.

"Mummy," one little boy wearing fancy clothing complained, "why do I have to wear this?" "Because the chief's son has come of age," his mother explained. "They're announcing the new chief today!" "That's not my fault!" the boy exclaimed. From nearby, a group of Vikings set up the pole of ribbons.

"I can't believe today's the day!" one woman exclaimed to her husband as they both made their way through the village. A group of little girls were running and singing their joyous emotions in a high staccato rhythm as the day drew nearer. Two men looked at the docks and saw the approaching ships from each neighboring county. "Sure is goin' to be the best one yet!" one of the men said in jubilation.

Outside from the Hall of Heroes, Astrid, Thorin, and the others were waiting outside. "Yay! I can't believe it's finally here!" Thorin said. "I can't wait to see Hiccup and his sister make the day!" "Yea, it's really nice," Astrid said. "But did Altaira have to make it today?" "Well, she wanted Hiccup to be crowned chief already," Elfrin said. "Why stop now?" "And speaking of Hiccup," Hanson said, "I wonder how those two are doing right now!"

Meanwhile, Kida was in absolute distress. Her mother Valka had spent hours trying to prepare her children for the coronation day. So far, she had attempted to brush Kida's wild hair, tighten her corset, outfit her in her new dress, braid the top part of her hair, and hang a silver dragon pendant round her neck.

"There," Valka told her daughter. "You look absolutely beautiful."
"Ugh, Mum. I can't breathe!" Kida said, struggling to gasp for air. Hiccup, wearing ceremonial armor and a fur cape, was standing off in the corner, smirking. Kida gave him a look that said, "Don't laugh, 'cause today it's all going to fall on you now. You're it." Hiccup saw her and frowned simply. "Okay, give us a turn," Valka said eagerly. Kida strained to turn around in tiny steps. "I can't even move," Kida said. "It's too tight!" "It's perfect!" Valka said with pride. Kida groaned in disgust.

Suddenly, Valka stood motionless. She saw a beam of sunlight shine through Kida's head. Hiccup didn't know what this meant. "Kida," Valka said. "What?" Kida asked. After pausing for a moment, Valka composed herself and said, "Just remember to smile, okay you two?" "Okay," Hiccup and Kida both said together.

In the Hall of Heroes, Altairea was pacing back and forth nervously. "Everything all right, m'lady?" Kristoff asked. "I'm fine," Altairea replied. "I'm just worried that everything might go wrong all of a sudden." "M'lady, I assure you that everything will turn out just fine," Kristoff said. "I'm sure of it."

Soon, it was time for the coronation. Valka, wearing an emerald-green and gold gown, guided Hiccup and Kida, along with their dragons, into the hall. "Okay everyone," Altairea told them. "Take your places." Hiccup sat on a throne next to Valka's seat. Toothless, Thunderbolt, and Cloudjumper all sat themselves neatly next to the chair. Kida, on the other hand, slumped down on her chair, but Valka quickly made her sit up straight.

"All right, is everybody ready?" Kristoff asked the others. Hiccup, Valka, and Kida all nodded their heads in reply. "Now guards," Kristoff shouted at the two armed Vikings standing on both sides of the entrance to the Hall of Heroes.

"Open the gates!"

Soon, the doors parted open and almost the entire village came into the hall. The ceremony had begun. Hiccup stood from his seat and frantically searched around the room to see if his friends were coming. He breathed a sigh of relief as soon as he saw Astrid and the others coming inside. Of course, he never passed up the chance to wave to Astrid. And, as usual, Astrid did indeed wave back to Hiccup. So did Thorin and the others. But Valka silently motioned for Hiccup to sit down, so Hiccup sat down in dismay. As soon as he sat down, he felt a slight tug on his leg. Hiccup looked down and saw Winter on the floor, kneeling next to the chair in which he sat. "Winter!" Hiccup whispered angrily. "What do you think you're doing?!" "I wanted to come see you," Winter answered in reply. "But you can't be seen here!" Hiccup hissed silently. "Just go back to your seat! Your mom and brother might be worried sick looking for you!" Winter silently obeyed and skipped back to her seat.

"All right, this is it!" Astrid exclaimed. "I can't believe Hiccup's going to be the new chief!" "I agree," Thorin said. "Finally, I chose today to wear my new dress!" "Yep, it almost makes me cry to see my baby cousin looking so grownup in her dress!" Hanson said, hugging Astrid tightly. "Hanson!" Astrid shouted in disgust. "I'm not a baby!" "Yea, but he acts like one when he's around you," Elfrin

replied.

"Silence now," Altaira announced as soon as the crowd's noise dropped to a more steady level. "Now, you may have wondered why I have gathered you all today on this particularly ordinary day. Anybody know why? Anyone?" The crowd remained, even after Altaira stopped talking. "Does anybody know why we are celebrating?" Altaira asked again. No answer. "Nobody has a reasonable answer?" Still no sound at all.

"Oh! Oh! I know! I know!" Winter shouted, raising her hand and jumping from her seat. Hiccup covered his face with his hand in embarrassment, so ashamed for himself. He knew that Winter was just going to let one little blunder blow the entire operation. "Are we here because of Mr. Hiccup?" Winter shouted in question.

The crowd remained silent. Then, Altaira was the first to speak. "Yes, little one," she said. "We are here because of Hiccup's path toward one of the grandest milestones ever in the history of Berk. We have gathered you all here because we will inaugurate Hiccup as the new leader of Berk." Soon, the crowd erupted in applause.

"Yes, yes, it is quite special," Altaira said. "Hiccup is very proud to be here and rightfully take his father's place as the new chief of Berk." Gesturing to Valka, Altaira said, "And no one is more happier than Hiccup's mother herself." The dragons, in turn, roared and squealed in excitement. "But we are more overjoyed to be here," Altaira continued, "because another member of Hiccup's family is also here with us today. And her name isâ€¦"

Suddenly, the applause had become dead silent as the doors to the Hall of Heroes burst open dramatically. Every villager turned around and watched in horror as a mysterious figure, wearing a hooded black cloak capped with a deer skull and holding a wooden staff, came walking toward Hiccup and his family. Even Altaira froze in horror. Hiccup did not know who this person was. Soon, the figure removed the hood of the cloak, revealing the face of a dark-skinned woman with a massive black bang covering her right eye. Hiccup suddenly remembered who this girl was. _She's the person who healed my ankle a few nights ago!_ Hiccup thought.

"And what manner of a civilian are you?" Altaira asked the figure. The woman turned away from her and faced the crowd. "I am Naishara," the woman replied. "A few years ago, I come to this weak 'n deteriorating village, with only one purpose: to protect it from ruin and despair. But last night, I had vision that the dark tempis' come forward to this village." The village could only gasp in terror.

"And them spirits foretold that this here dark force is settin' course forâ€¦" Naishara then pointed her finger to Hiccup, "The new chief of Berk!"

"What is the meaning of this?!" Valka asked in outrage. "Some dark force is comingâ€¦to get me?" Hiccup said. "And the bad tempis' gonna rip apart the very thread that holds this village together!" Naishara exclaimed in agony. "Andâ€¦they send waves of terror showerin' down on you people!" The villagers began to panic.

"Guards! Guards!" Kristoff shouted at two of the armed Vikings. "I

order you to get this woman out of our sight! Now!" The two Vikings obeyed and grabbed Naishara by the arms and escorted her out of the Hall of Heroes. "You just wait!" Naishara shouted in anger. "You just wait! Them dark forces harm the new chief! I know it!"

"All right now, no need to be alarmed," Altaira said, trying to calm the crowd. But it was no use. The crowd was frightened by the thought of an evil force coming to harm Hiccup. Soon, the panicking died down after Cloudjumper delivered a high, piercing roar.

"Do not be alarmed. I can assure you that no dark force will take the chief's own life," Altaira said. "Now, it would not be time for the chief's son to take the place of his father as new leader immediately." Hiccup looked up as Altaira spoke.

"Today," Altaira said, "each and every young Viking loyal to the chief's son will prove themselves loyal to cherish his duties and responsibilities by completing various death-defying challenges. And for the final challenge, the course will be determined by the chief's second in command. As in the case of today, the final challenge for these young Vikings will beâ€¦"

"Axe throwing! Axe throwing!" Kida shouted excitedly. Hiccup and Valka both stared at her in a sense of confusion and disappointment that seemed to shock them. Kida knew what her mother was going to say, so she composed herself and calmly said, "I choose axe throwing."

"All right then, it is settled," Altaira announced as the crowd began to cheer themselves up. "Now for the real moment of truth." The crowd then erupted in applause.

"Let the games begin!"

11. Forgive and Regret

Chapter 11: Forgive and Regret

Throughout the rest of the day, there was a huge festival celebrating the crowning of Hiccup as the new chief and the return of his sister Kida. As Altaira gazed out upon the village, Kristoff approached her and said, "What a smart move you made coronating the two on this fine day." "I have, haven't I?" Altaira said. "But still, I can't shake the feeling about some curse." "What curse?" Kristoff asked. "There is no curse, and there never will be."

Meanwhile, the others were practically going crazy about the exciting festivities that were going on. Elfrin and Hanson were already battling it out as they played tug-of-war with the little boys. And they ended up winning. Feeling energized, Thorin and her family approached a booth selling tapestries. "Mummy, watch this," Thorin told her mother as she held her baby boy Melridge. "Look Harris," Thorin said, grabbing the tapestry. "It's a cape! It's a tarp! It's a cape! It's a tarp!" Her family laughed while the salesman tried to figure out why Thorin acted so strangely.

During that time, Astrid found Elfrin at the ropes course endurance challenge. "What's up, ice boy?" Astrid said while climbing off of her dragon. "Oh nothing," Elfrin replied. "I just wanted to enter the

ropes course endurance, but it's only for people with dragons." "How about if you entered the contest with Stormfly and me?" Astrid asked him. "That just seems crazy enough to work!" Elfrin said, and they both entered the challenge.

As traditional folk dancers danced madly to the beat of the steady drums pounding, North and Winter's mother was a booth selling honey cakes that she made. But her two children always had a trick up their sleeve. While hiding in a barrel covered with a tarp, the two children sneaked up to the booth. North tapped his mother's leg, and while she turned around to see who it was, Winter snagged the treats. Turning around, the woman noticed the moving barrel, she realized it was her own children. "Shame on you too! You'd better behave yourselves now!" she called as North and Winter rolled away, with their treats in hand. It was a great day so far, and nobody knew what was yet to come as of now.

Moments later, it was time for the final event of the day: the blade-throwing competition. Every Viking youth stood to their post and readied their weapons. "This is it," an excited Valka told Hiccup. "All right, let's see what they've got!" Hiccup said. Toothless, Cloudjumper, and Thunderbolt all bounced with excitement. Kida smiled, but little did her family know that she a secret plan up her sleeve.

"Vikings!" Altaira announced. "To your positions!" Kristoff then pounded a gong, and the competition began.

Thorin was the first one up. She had chosen a crossbow, and she began to position her weapon. Fwoosh! The arrow sailed through the air and hit the target—and hit the bull's-eye. The crowd cheered. "Aw, well at least she hit part of it," Hiccup said.

Next came Elfrin. He planned to use his ice harvesting spear to hit the target. He launched the spear, but it only managed to hit the grass. Elfrin pouted and stomped his foot.

Astrid followed Elfrin. Her axe was her first weapon of choice. She hurled the axe as fast as she could, and it hit the target front and center! The crowd cheered wildly. "Your girlfriend's a natural-born axe throwing expert," Valka told her son. "She is, isn't she?" Hiccup said.

The competition was soon packing heat. Snotlout took part in the challenge—and missed the target. Ruffnut and Tuffnut were not so agreeable on who got to go first, and they ended up dropping out of the competition. Fishlegs was too timid to even throw a weapon, and he hurled it at only ten yards.

Finally, Hanson came up. He drew up his sword Caliburn and aimed. He waited for the right moment to throw. Then, without warning, Hanson threw his sword—and it hit the target smack dab in the center. The crowd cheered as Hanson beamed with pride. "That's three!" Kristoff shouted. "Cool!" Hiccup said. "Well sis, looks like you and I will be ruling together after—" But when Hiccup turned. Kida was gone! Where could she have gone to this time?

Suddenly, the crowd was brought to a silent jest as a hooded figure placed a banner displaying the crest of the Night Fury on the grass. Removing the hood, Everyone gasped. It was Kida!

"I am Kida!" Kida shouted out loud for everyone to hear. "I am the first born descendant of the great chief Stoick the Vast. And I'll be shooting for my own loyalty to the new chief!" Valka could not help but stare. "What are you doing?" she whispered.

Kida readied her weapons and ended up tearing off the sleeves of her dress. "Kida! Stop!" Valka shouted, then proceeded to the grounds. Kida paid no attention and made the first shot. Then, she made two more shots at Elfrin and Astrid's targets. Hiccup was silently watching in complete confusion.

Kida then made her way across the grounds and made even more perfect shots than ever. And the crowd watched as she progressed. But Valka was determined to put an end to this sensation. "Kida, don't you dare let loose another blade!" Valka demanded angrily. At last Kida approached the spot in which Hanson threw his sword. She withdrew her axe blade and prepared to throw. *Courage*, Kida said in her mind. *Spear, no fear.* Breathing deeply, Kida set the target. *Be the girl you want to be.*

Then, releasing the blade from her hand, Kida sent the axe flying in the open air. Hiccup, Astrid, Altaira, Kristoff, and the others watched in surprise and horror as they saw the weapon gliding in the blue sky. Then, the axe landed on the target and practically cut the whole target in half!

Everyone watched as the axe then cut its way through the target. Then, one of the Vikings could not help but applaud. Soon, two more Vikings began to clap. Now, almost everybody began to applaud and cheer loudly and wildly at Kida's amazing feat. *I did it*, Kida thought. *I finally overcame the obstacles of my mind and the outside world and did what I did. Now I can finally be who I am and not harm anyone.* Suddenly, a shadow loomed over her, and Kida turned. She then found herself face to face with an angry and heated Valka. Angry, Kida faced her with nonchalance. She knew that she was already in big trouble.

Minutes later, Valka marched into the Hall of Heroes and thrust Kida to the throne to berate her. But she was so angry that she couldn't even speak.

"I warned you," Valka said. "I expected you to be the best-behaved woman in Berk, and just look at what you've done!" "Mom! Why are you doing this to me?!" Kida shouted. "You don't know what you've done, young lady!" Valka shouted, pointing her finger at Kida. "Now you've messed up everything that this village had to offer!"

Drawing her axe-crested staff, Kida berated her mother. "But Mom!" Kida exclaimed. "This coronation is just another lousy attempt of yours to make me the woman you dreamed of! This is just something you've wanted! Have you not ever asked me about my wishes?!" Kida shouted in anger. "I am your mother!" Valka snapped. "And I expect you to listen me and obey my direct orders!"

"Oh sure, it's all, 'Kida, don't do this', or 'Kida, behave yourself', and 'Kida, be a nice, patient, perfect and clean young lady!'" Kida shouted, waving her axe staff about. "You may think I'm just a great woman!" Then, walking over to the old family tapestry, Kida exclaimed, "But you, Mom are you're a monster!" "Kida, don't you

dare!" Valka demanded. "But if you think any of this is going to condition my needs" Kida shouted, pointing the blade of the axe near the tapestry. "Kida, I'm warning you!" Valka shouted. "then maybe I'll die unhappy!" Kida shouted, shredding the tapestry in half!

Valka gasped. Kida had torn the tapestry between her and Kida's hands. Valka's sadness then turned into heated anger. "Kida, you are a lady," Valka exclaimed, snatching Kida's axe and threw across the room. "And I expect you to behave like one!" Valka shouted as she forcibly grabbed Kida's harpoon from around her chest and threw it into the fire pit.

Kida gasped in full horror and shock. Her mother then turned to her angrily. Her eyes welling up with tears, Kida then ran out of the Hall of Heroes. "Kida!" Valka shouted, but Kida ignored her. "Kida!" Valka then heard a sharp zing, and in a fit of terror, fished out the harpoon. She noticed that the carving said, _To my little Kida, from your father, Stoick_. "Oh no," Valka whispered tearfully. "What have I done?"

Soon, Kida thrust herself on Thunderbolt's back and kicked at him to take off. Thunderbolt took off and ran, with Kida gripping onto his back, weeping and sobbing loudly. All of the villagers watched in horror as she burst through the crowd. Hiccup noticed his sister's wild dash. "What is going on?" he muttered. Deciding that he'll find out, Hiccup mounted onto Toothless. "After them, bud!" he commanded. Toothless obeyed and flew off.

Rushing through the forest, Thunderbolt cut his way through the scratchy branches, which only managed to scratch and scar Kida's dress and body. Thunderbolt then heard Toothless's cry and threw Kida off of his back. Tumbling to the ground, Kida sobbed, "Thunderbolt!" She then noticed Hiccup approaching them, and she tried to run from them. "Kida, don't run from this!" Hiccup exclaimed, hopping off of Toothless and slowly approaching Kida.

"No! Just stay away from me!" Kida shouted, backing up even more. "Stay" Kida felt a slight jolt on her foot, then turned to look. She noticed the stale path under her turn dark green. She was now torn between the river and Hiccup edging closer to her. There was no other choice. Kida summoned Thunderbolt and then she ran off, mysteriously turning the river into a dull, jade-green stone platform.

"Kida!" Hiccup shouted, running farther to the edge of the lake. But, because of his prosthetic leg, he lost his footing and fell. "Hiccup!" Astrid called out from above. Steering her dragon to a flat surface to land on, she ran to Hiccup. "You okay?" Astrid asked. "I'm fine," Hiccup said, regaining his bearings. "Oh no," Astrid muttered. "What?" Hiccup asked. "Look," Astrid said, pointing to the far end of the river. "The fjords."

Hiccup cocked his head in that direction and gasped in horror. The platform had taken effect and now coated the mountains and fjords into a dark grey landscape. The flourishing green trees had now become dark brown with gray and sand-colored dead leaves. The crystal-blue waters suddenly turned a sickening shade of gray. The blue skies now became dark and dismal, with gray clouds rolling in, and a heavy fog blanketed the entire island and plunged it into a

deep darkness.

Suddenly, the island's new and unexpected transformation aroused a hushed panic in Berk. "Ashes from the sky, and fog?" Thorin said, watching the sky. "Whoa, dark clouds," Ruffnut said smugly. "Like a thick fog." "Well, yes. It is a fog!" Thorin said again.

Hiccup and Astrid had returned back to Berk atop their respected mounts and proceeded toward the Hall of Heroes. Hiccup was shivering from the cold that emerged into the sky. "Hiccup, did you know about this?" Astrid said. "No, I haven't," Hiccup said. "I never knew about this ever since she came back to Berk."

"Oh no, the skies have become dark! This land's been cursed with sorcery!" Altaira exclaimed in terror. "Calm down," Kristoff said. "We should at least remain calm." "Altaira!" Hiccup said, approaching her. "You!" Altaira said. "Is there sorcery in you too?! Are you cursed too?!" "No, I'm just me," Hiccup replied. "He's right," Astrid chimed in. "But—your sister," Altaira stuttered. "And—the dark skies, the gray waters—how did that even happen?" "I have no idea," Hiccup said. "All I remember is approaching Kida and then suddenly, everything turned dark. I'm so ashamed. It's probably my fault that Kida ran away."

"No, it was not your fault, my son," a voice said. Hiccup turned to find his mother. "Mom?" Hiccup asked. "Today was actually my fault," Valka answered. "I was the one who drove Kida to run away from the village. She was just trying to prove herself loyal." "But you burned Kida's harpoon in the fire pit and threw away her staff," Astrid said in a remark of contempt. "I did it because I did not realize how angry I was," Valka said. "But, then I discovered something. The harpoon that I burned, I found out that Stoick gave Kida that harpoon when she was a wee girl. I had never realized how much that harpoon meant to her, and her family."

"Mom? Is this true?" Hiccup asked. "Oh Hiccup," Valka said, her eyes filling with tears. "I'm sorry—" Then, Valka broke down sobbing. "My precious baby's gone forever! I'm so sorry, Kida! What are we ever going to do?" "Don't worry Mom," Hiccup said, embracing his sobbing mother. "I have a plan." "You do?" Astrid asked. "He does," Thorin said. "That's right," Hiccup said. "I'm gonna go after Kida and make things right with her." "No, you can't," Valka said. "It's too dangerous out there." "She is right," Altaira said. "You can't just go off on a never-ending search to find your sister. Besides, the village is already plunged into darkness; it'll be hard to see through all this fog. You'll have to carry out your plan in the morning." "But she's my sister," Hiccup said. "She could never hurt me."

12. A Home, but not a Heart

Chapter 12: A Home, But Not a Heart

It was a dark and stormy night. Dressed in a fur-lined cloak, Hiccup found himself on a perilous mountain range. Hiccup tried not to slip, but his prosthetic leg gave him great difficulty to trespass. He saw the shadowy figure of a woman standing by a cave. Wait, was that—Kida? Hiccup squinted to get a better look, and it was indeed Kida. She seemed to be searching for something.

"_Kida?" Hiccup muttered under his breath. Kida stared at Hiccup, but she paid no attention to him whatsoever. "No! Kida! Please come back!" Hiccup called out. "Let her go," a female voice said behind him. Hiccup turned to notice a black-cloaked figure standing before him. "Where am I? Who are you?" Hiccup asked. The figure then removed the hood of the cloak, revealing itself to beâ€|_

"_Naishara!" Hiccup exclaimed as he found the dark-faced woman coming to him. "Feel strong pull from cave," Naishara said. "Inside, you seek shelter from freezin' cold." Hiccup then found his sister disappear into the cave! "Kida! No!" Hiccup shouted._

"_You are cold," Naishara said. "I am," Hiccup said, covering himself. "Cave is warm," Naishara said breathily. "You go in now." Hiccup was unsure of what to do! "Take my hand, and I guide you to cave," Naishara said, gesturing to Hiccup. "We will go together. Then, no one harm you."_

Hiccup then reluctantly offered Naishara his hand. "There, there, my child," Naishara said. "That is good. That isâ€|"

"_HICCUP! WAKE UP!"_

_Hiccup then jerked his hand away from Naishara. "No, Hiccup!" Naishara yelled. "No!" Hiccup tried to listen but he kept hearing the words "WAKE UP! WAKE UP!" He could almost feel the echoes growing even louder! _

"_HICCUP! PLEASE WAKE UP!"_

"Hiccup! Wake up, wake up, wake up!"

"Huh? Wha-?" Hiccup yawned sleepily and rubbed his eyes. His vision was blurry, but he could barely make out the faint silhouette ofâ€|Winter and Toothless? "Winter," Hiccup groaned lazily, "what are you doing here, in my house?" "My mommy let me visit you today!" Winter exclaimed. "Isn't that fun?" "Yes, it is fun," Hiccup said, rising out of bed. "And strange." Hiccup glanced out the window, hoping that whatever happened to the skies the other day cleared up by now. Instead, a light snow was falling. The sky was a dull gray mass of dark gray clouds.

"Huh, that's weird," Hiccup said. "I thought the clouds would clear up and the sky would be sunny again." "Well, it's not all that bad," a voice said. Hiccup turned around and saw Astrid and Thorin standing by the doorway of his bedroom. "You guys too? Okay, when is everybody starting to come in here?" Hiccup wondered sarcastically. "Look, I hate to be a real party pooper or anything else, but we have to find out why your sister caused those dark clouds," Astrid said.

"Of course!" Thorin said. "So Hiccup, what's the plan?" "Plan?" Hiccup said, panicking. "Oh no no noâ€|Whatâ€|what am I going to do? Kida shut me away! And then there's the coronation gone awry, andâ€|andâ€|" "Hey, don't worry about becoming the new chief," Thorin said. "Justâ€|just worry about your hair." "What about my hair?" Hiccup said in disbelief. "I just got out of bed. You guys should see your hair!" "No, Thorin's right," Astrid told Hiccup. "Look at your hair. It's turning gray."

"Oh Thunder," Kida mumbled. "Why did I ever leave home? I had a real home once. Now it is dead to me." Thunderbolt simply shook his head and grunted. Kida then had no choice but to clench her fists together into tight balls, throw her head back, and let out a loud scream. Her scream echoed so loud that it shook the snow-filled mountains.

"HEY!" Kida shouted loudly, becoming instantly angry. "HEY OVER HERE! I'M ALL ALONE AND STUCK HERE AT THIS FARAWAY MOUNTAIN OUTSIDE OF BERK! IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM, THEN YOU'D BETTER COME FIND ME! IF YOU EVER DECIDE NOT TO MAKE ME THE MAIDEN OF BERK, SO BEAT IT! YOU CAN'T FIND ME HERE!"

Nobody seemed to hear her outrageous outbursts. Kida shrugged and climbed off her dragon. She began to notice seagulls flying off from every direction. Kida took a step forward.

Lost and alone, Kida and Thunderbolt trudged up the steep and snowy mountains. Even as a kid, she had been taught to live under the moral code that she was born in. Now everything was gone. Kida took one last look at that little pile of rock called Berk. She knew nobody would ever see her the same way again.

But some part in her felt relieved. It was hard not to keep her true identity, but now she didn't have to hide it. Being alone made her feel confident of all the great things she could do.

As she continued the trek up the mountain, Kida noticed that her footsteps became more lighter. She began to fall into a more easier rhythm. The magic that had sprung from under her had now become a gleaming ray of green light. She was finally free to be herself!

"Be the good girl you always need to be," she whispered under her icy breath. With waves of her hand, the ice and snow began to form shining green leaves and flowers. They whirled all about her as she conjured up magical beings and plants. The more she and Thunderbolt walked into the woods, the stronger her heart was to control the elements.

She kept repeating her silent mantra as more and more dragons were instantly drawn to her. Kida then plucked off her tiara and her tightly braided hair came apart, now falling into a shining cascade of brown waters. Spinning around, Kida felt the mysterious force conjure up a new outfit: a flowing white dress with a gossamer green batwing cape decorated with leaves. Vines grew along her legs and arms, and sparkling glitter dotted her face. Dragons were her life. She finally became the Dragon Queen!

Finally letting her new powers roam free, Kida was finally capable of more than she ever realized. With flocks of dragons following her, Kida then used her powers to bend the trees and boulders closer together to create a beautiful and safe haven for dragons. As she raised her arms, huge torrents of water flowed in from every direction, forming large creeks and rivers.

This would be the perfect place for her to live in. When the cove was finished, Kida took a last gaze at Berk, which now seemed so tiny and far away. "Dragons never bothered me anyway," Kida told herself smugly. "Deal with it." At that notion, she flung the drapes of

leaves to a close. She finally found a place of her own.

13. The Journey

Chapter 13: The Journey

Meanwhile, Hiccup, Thorin, and Astrid were now venturing a little farther from Berk as they searched for Kida. Their dragons had flown so far as to reach part of the snow-barren lands. Now, the sky had faded into a darker shade of gray, and dark clouds began to form. A light snow fell from the sky.

"Kida!" Hiccup shouted repeatedly. His voice seemed to echo through the thick and foggy clouds. "Kida, it's me, Hiccup! Your brother! I'm sorry, this was all my fault!" Then, whispering, "Of course, this wouldn't have happened if she'd just told us her secret, that's all." "You think?" Astrid said. After hearing some strange noises in the woods, Thorin kept convincing herself that it was just puppies playing.

Soon, Toothless, RockJaw, and Stormfly were startled by the noises and dropped to the ground. "No no no Toothless! Come on, we gotta carry on!" Hiccup exclaimed. "Hiccup, our dragons are tired out," Astrid said. "We'll have to carry on by foot." As soon as she said that, a clump of snow fell on Thorin. "Fiddlesticks," Thorin said.

The three friends and their dragons had spent hours tramping through the thick snow and gray debris. So far, they had trudged to the outer reaches of the woods near the Arctic Circle. Dusk was already setting in. "Snow," Hiccup mumbled. "It had to be snow." "You think she could've had some sort of happy magic," Astrid said, shaking snow off of her boots. The sun seemed to set slowly. "It could be possible," Thorin said, "if it weren't for the freezing cold!"

Suddenly, the three friends found smoke billowing from far away.

"Yes! Fire!" Hiccup exclaimed. "Well, let's not just stand here!" Thorin said. "Let's go over there!"

Soon, they were all running to the source of heat from a far more distant perspective. Hiccup was running, but then he accidentally tripped on his prosthetic leg and tumbled into a frozen pool of water. He screamed as the ice cold water came all the way up to his waist. "Come on, get up," Thorin said as she and Astrid helped Hiccup to his feet. With short, gasping breaths, Hiccup only managed to shuffle his feet in a broken manner possible. "So cold," he whispered in freezing pain. "Cold, cold, cold, cold, cold, cold, cold, cold!"

At last, the friends were finally able to reach the heat source, which turned out to be a small ship. Now Hiccup's waist was completely frozen, and so he ended up waddling to the dock. Astrid and Thorin had to carry him up there. As they got one, they could barely make out the sound of music and men laughing heartily. Astrid then propped the door open, and then she carried Hiccup inside, with Thorin trailing behind her. It was warm inside, so there was no problem asking for a warm blanket. While going inside, Astrid found

the one person she had least expected to see.

"Come on, tell me that one joke again, the one about the guy asking for a sandwich." Meanwhile, Elfrin and Hanson were sitting around a circular fire pit, laughing and joking around. "Okay, okay," Elfrin said, finally calming down from his fit of laughter. "Here goes. So, there's this guy at the tavern, right? And he's telling the barmaid, 'Do you serve fish here?' She says, 'Yes,' and he says, 'Fine, I'll have an sandwich and you can toss the kibbles to myâ€¦'"

"Hanson!" Elfrin and Hanson started and turned to face the three friends that stood before them. "Astrid!" Hanson exclaimed. "And Hiccup and Thorin! Wow, this is a rather strangeâ€¦and unexpected visit." "Yea, I know that," Astrid said in a huff. "What're you guys doing here?" Elfrin asked. "Take us to the northern summit of Berk," Thorin said proudly. Hanson simply shrugged his shoulders and said, "I don't take people places." "Okay, let me rephrase that," Thorin said, then she placed her fingers to her lips and whistled. At that moment, RockJaw stuck his big head into the port window and roared in Hanson's ear. Hanson shot straight up like a bullet. "Take us to the northern summit of Berk," Thorin demanded.

"But what for?" Elfrin asked. "Listen," Hiccup said. "I know how I can stop this curse from ravaging Berk forever." Hanson thought deeply for a minute, and then he laid down to rest. "We leave at dawn," That was when Astrid threw a heavy sack at him. "No, we leave now," she told him. "Maybe we should go outside," Hiccup said, leading the others out of the hull. Hiccup could not help but peer into the hull as Hanson and Elfrin thought for quite a while. Finally, after a long time, the two men agreed to take the three on their quest.

Moments later, Hiccup and the others found themselves on their dragons and flying into the forests to continue their long journey. Meanwhile, Hanson found this the perfect time to ask Hiccup a couple of questions. "So tell me, chief," Hanson said, "what made the maiden of Berk go all dragon-crazy?" "Well, technically, it was my fault," Hiccup said. "It was my fault that I told Kida she was supposed to become the second in command, and then this whole argument between her and Mom just got kindaâ€¦"

"Whoa wait," Elfrin said. "You were responsible for inaugurating Kida as second in command?" "Yes," Hiccup said, "so then Kida got mad, and then Mom got mad, and then she burned her harpoon andâ€¦" "Wait, YOU were responsible for inaugurating Kida as second in command that day?" Elfrin repeated again.

"Yes, well the thing is, Kida had her harpoon hidden all the time," Hiccup said, "so I just thought, 'Maybe the girl's got some issue about men.'" "Didn't your parents ever warn you about defying your responsibilities as the new chief?" Hanson demanded. "Well yeah," Hiccup said. "But Altaira knows exactly how to govern." "Oh yeah?" Elfrin said. "What's her title?" Hiccup scoffed and said, "She's the peacekeeper of Berk." "Her interest?" Elfrin asked. "Tapestries," Hiccup said. "Best friend's name?" Elfrin asked again. "Probably Mary," Hiccup said. At least that was what he assumed it to be. "How can Altaira possibly know about the coronation before you did?" Elfrin said. Hiccup searched for the right words, but all he could say was, "Well, it doesn't matter; it's the way of the Vikings."

"Doesn't sound like it to me," Elfrin said. "Okay, what are you? Some kind of Viking expert?" Hiccup asked. "He isn't," Hanson said. "But we have a few friends that are." "You guys have friendsâ€|that are Viking experts?" Hiccup smirked. "I'm not buying it."

"Stormfly, halt!" Astrid commanded. "Shush," Hanson told Hiccup said. "Oh no," Hiccup scoffed. "I don't even believe you guys." Elfrin had to shush him as Astrid surveyed her surroundings. She gave a signal to Thorin, who then told RockJaw, "RockJaw, fly!" The three dragons then flew at a rapid speed. "What's going on?" Hiccup asked. "Wolves!" Thorin screamed. And sure enough, there were wolves pursuing them! "Toothless, faster!" Hiccup yelled. Toothless obeyed and flew rapidly.

"What do we do now?!" Hiccup yelled. "Just stay down and don't get eaten," Elfrin said, pushing Hiccup to the side and fending off the wolves with his ice pick. "But I want to help too," Hiccup said. "No!" Elfrin said. "Why?" Hiccup asked. " 'Cause I don't trust your sense of sarcasm," Elfrin said while pushing off a wolf. "Excuse me?" Hiccup smirked. "Who in the name of Odin makes the chief responsible for inaugurating his sister as second in command?" Elfrin sneered. Hiccup felt like exploding. Grabbing Elfrin's wooden bat, he screamed, "IT'S THE VIKING'S WAY OF LIFE!" Then, he smashed the bat at the wolf.

Meanwhile, Astrid and Hanson were busy trying to tackle the wolves as they piled on Stormfly. One wolf happened to knock Hanson right off of Stormfly. "Hanson!" Astrid yelled out. Then, she remembered the club he held, and picked it up. She lit it with fire and hurled it at the wolf, who ran off in agony. "You almost set me on fire!" Hanson yelled while climbing back on the dragon. "But I didn't!" Astrid retorted.

"CLIFF!" Thorin yelled. "What cliff?!" everyone shouted all at once. They suddenly saw what was before them: a wide gorge came up ahead. "Get ready to jump, Toothless!" Hiccup yelled.

Soon, the three dragons leaped across the gorge and safely made it to the other side, and soon the wolves were out of sight and out of mind.

"What a wild ride!" Elfrin shouted, pumping his fists in the air. "Who's up for round 2?" Astrid gave him a dirty look, and Elfrin hastily put his hands down. "Now what?" Thorin asked. "I know Kida is in those woods somewhere," Hiccup said. "We have to go find her and return her back to the village, so we can mend the bond between her and-augh!" Hiccup held his head in agony. "What's wrong?" Astrid said, but she later found out when she saw that another one of Hiccup's brown locks of hair lose its color, turning into an ash-gray color.

"How long has that been happening?" Hanson asked. "What?" Thorin asked. "That thing that's turning Hiccup's hair gray," Elfrin asked. "We have no idea," Hiccup said. Turning his body around, Hiccup said, "All right! This way to the Northern Mountains!"

He proceed to walk, but was stopped short by Elfrin. Turning him around, he told him, "It's more like 'That way to the Northern Mountains'." He showed Hiccup the correct path. "Oh. I knew that,"

Hiccup said. Then, the group headed off into the deep woods.

14. Magical Discoveries

Chapter 14: Magical discoveries

Soon, the friends had come to a clear part of the woods, and they were amazed to find a serene cove full of majestic weeping willow trees. The drops of water on the slender leaves made the leaves gleam like glowing diamonds.

"I never knew this part of Berk could be so beautiful," Hiccup said, his mouth wide open. Hanson gently stroked the leaves, while Toothless bounced excitedly and jumbled the leaves. He looked like a walking leaf troll! "It's so pretty," Thorin said.

"Yea, but it's so green!" a female voice said. "I wished the leaves could shine another different color. Don't your eyes get bored? Mine are absolutely blacked out. Must we mute the joy of it? A little joy could be added to it. You know, like whatever. Maybe blue? No, wait. Blue leaves? Ugh."

Hiccup and the others turned and gasped as they saw a tiny, six-inch creature. She had a short, ebony-colored pixie hairdo, piercing green eyes, and wore silky velvet black webs for clothes. The only thing different was that her wings were dragon wings? She looked at the others and smiled. "Am I right?"

Hiccup was the first to react. "Yipe!" he exclaimed as he kicked the creature to Astrid, who caught it. "Hello," she said. "You're creepy," Astrid said, tossing the creature back to Thorin. "Eh, I don't want it!" Thorin yelled. She threw the fairy-like creature to the boys. "Hey! Watch it!" the creature yelled. "Ew ew ew, the body!" Hanson yelled, throwing it to the ground.

The creature hung upside down on a little vine. Confused, she asked, "Okay, what am I looking at right now? Why are you all hanging off the earth like a bat?" "Oh, sorry! Sorry!" Hiccup said, plucking the creature off of the vine. "There!" she said. "Now I'm perfect!" "Almost," Hiccup said. "You got a little thing sticking out there." He saw a little scaly thing sticking out from behind her and attempted to pull it out. Instead, the fins jutted out from her skirt. "Oh, too hard!" Hiccup said. I'm sorry!" "Are you kidding?" the fairy said. "I am wonderful! So cute, it almost looks like a tiny fish!" With an even harder pull, Hiccup managed to extend the full dragon tail from behind the creature. "Oh, I love it even more!" the creature said!

"Well, let's just start this over now," the creature told the friends. "Hi everyone. I'm Nia. And I'm a dragon fairy." This startled Hiccup even more. An actual dragon fairy? And by the looks, she was a Night Fury-type fairy. "A real dragon fairy," Hiccup whispered. "A real, living, and breathing dragon fairy!" "And you are?" Nia asked. "Oh, right!" Hiccup said.

"I'm Hiccup," Hiccup said to Nia, "the chief of Berk." "Hi," Nia said, and then pointing to Hanson and Stormfly, "and who's the funky-looking lizard?" "Uh, that's Stormfly," Hiccup said. "Yea, and who's the dragon?" "That's Stormfly," Hiccup said. Nia fluttered over

to Toothless, who snapped his jaws at her suddenly. "Oh! Look at that! Your little dragon's trying to kiss me!" Nia said, petting Toothless. "And I like you too!"

"Nia!" Hiccup said to her. "Did Kida create you?" "Yea. Why?" Nia asked. "Do you know where she is?" Hiccup asked. "Yea. Why?" Nia asked yet again. "Can you lead us to her?" Hiccup asked.

"Hey, how does this thing work?" Elfrin asked, dangling Nia's tail, which slapped him. "Hey, stop it Stormfly!" Nia said, swishing her tail back. "Trying to focus here." Turning back to Hiccup, she asked, "Yea. Why?" "I'll tell you why," Astrid said to her. "We need to find Kida to bring her back to Berk and mend the bond with her and Valka." "Oh, I don't know why, but I've always loved the idea of seeing Berk!" Nia said dreamily. "And I'll see the big sea, and the big mountains, and all things Vikings!"

"Really?" Hanson said. "I'm guessing you don't have that much experience with humans." "Oh, what I wouldn't give to just imagine a day where all those humans would see me and accept me for who I am!" Nia said. "That idea—it sounds so, so so—soaring high!" As she said that, Nia fluttered madly through the weeping willow branches, making them dance like shining diamonds.

Hanson shook his head. He had already known that humans had already accepted large dragons as their companions, but Nia was more than what he had seen before. Her appearance was likely for Nia to be rejected by every Viking on Berk! "I'm gonna tell her," Hanson said. "Don't you dare!" Hiccup whispered.

"Well, what are we waiting for?" Nia said, flapping her dragon wings. "Let's go bring back Kida!" "I'm coming!" Hiccup said, hopping on Toothless. "Count me in!" Thorin said while racing with Rockjaw. "Yea! Let's do this!" Elfrin said, hopping on Stormfly. "Then let's go!" Astrid said. Only Hanson could shrug his shoulders and mutter, "Somebody's got to tell her."

As the friends continued their journey through the forests, Hiccup could not help but keep staring at Nia. "Something the matter, chief?" Nia asked. "Oh, right! Sorry!" Hiccup finally said, snapping back to reality. "I'm okay. It's just that—I've never seen a dragon fairy like you before. Can I sketch you real quick?" Nia didn't mind; she continued flitting in the air as Hiccup grabbed his sketchbook and began drawing rough designs of Nia. "Fascinating!" Hiccup said. "I was the first to see a real living, breathing dragon fairy, and I can't imagine what could be worse than—"

"Aaaugh!" Hiccup clasped his forehead. He felt some sort of hot pain on his head. "What's wrong?" Thorin asked. Hiccup started to remove his hand from his head. But as he did, another streak of gray appeared in Hiccup's hair! "Oh no," Astrid said. "This isn't good." "What's not good?" Nia asked, confused. "It's the curse," Astrid said. "It's getting stronger." "What are we gonna do?" Elfrin asked. Astrid suddenly had an idea. "Naishara!" she exclaimed.

"Naishara?" Thorin wondered. "You mean that dark-skinned lady we saw a few nights ago?" "Yea," Astrid said. "She's that one person who healed Hiccup's wound! Maybe she can tell us what is happening to Hiccup!" "Well, what are we waiting for?" Hanson asked. "Let's go find Naishara!" Soon, the friends and their dragons headed toward

their search for the sorceress.

"Spirits of unliving," Naishara began to chant over a blazing fire. "I command thee to reveal thyself." She threw in a handful of yellow and red spices, which created a large mass of purple flames. Slowly, she held an eagle skull over the flames, and began to recite a mysterious and incomprehensible mantra. "_Oh gods of Valhalla," _she began to chant silently, her voice gradually changing tone. "_Oh pure spirits of the living and undead._" The fire in front of her began to conjure an image. "_I summon the unholy spirit of all dragons good and fair." _The image began to enhance more clearly, as if it were turning into a dragon. "_Reveal your true nature and unleash thy force unto thy cold and darkâ€|_"

"Naishara!" Astrid immediately burst through the curtained doorway, which caused the image of the purple dragon to vanish into dust. Startled, Naishara approached Astrid. "You!" she exclaimed in fury. "What you be doin' out here?! Can't you see I'm in middle of important tempis' right now?" "I know, I'm sorry," Astrid said. "But this is a really big emergency right now, and we need you to take care of it." "Okay, okay, but make it quick!" Naishara urged.

"What be of your doin's right now?" Naishara asked as the group of friends all clamored inside. "It's Hiccup," Thorin said. As soon as she had said that, Hiccup had entered, with a rag over his head once again. "What be it this time now?" Naishara asked. "I can't do anything if it be anythin' minor thanâ€|" Naishara soon changed her tone as soon as Hiccup revealed the three gray hairs on his perfectly brown hair. "Whaâ€|what happened to him?" Naishara asked, slowly fingering the gray hairs. "We have no idea what happened," Astrid said. "But I believe this was linked to the day when Kida exiled herself from Berk." "Hi! Did I miss anything?" Nia soon came fluttering inside the hut, bewildering Naishara. "And that creature!" Naishara exclaimed. "Howâ€|how she was created?" "Hiccup believed it was his sister who created Nia," Thorin said.

"Oh no, oh no," Naishara said, feeling dazed. "This really not good." "What is it?" Thorin asked. "Look this right here," Naishara said, grabbing a few bottles and spraying dust on the fire to conjure up images. "Hiccup," she told Hiccup, "you never knew this before, but your sister Kida is special one. She born with the ability to control dragons. Back then, Vikings at war with dragons. But your sister, she more than that. She had power to create life from dragons. She can turn dragons into fairies, even humans! And it was her mum that gave her ability to tame dragons."

"And you're saying that my talent to interact with dragons is part of some magical power that my sister has?" Hiccup asked. "Yes," Naishara said. "You're special. You came from long line of people who knew dragons are good. And you tied with your mother and sister's abilities." "And what happens if Kida ran away from home, just like she did the other day?" Elfrin happened to ask. "Then that means," Naishara gasped in terror, "then that means thatâ€|the bond between humans and dragons has been ripped!"

"Ripped?" Hiccup asked. "What do you mean, 'ripped'?" "Picture it this way," Naishara said, conjuring up an image of a triangle in the fire. "This triangle represents the three tiers of interacting with dragons. You are top of the triangle. Your sister and mother are at the bottom." The triangle now showed Hiccup at the peak, while Kida

and Valka were at the bottom. "And if your sister leaves the triangle," Naishara said, making the image of Kida disappear, "the stability is broken." The triangle then vanished in red flames.

"But she doesn't know that she has powers?" Hiccup asked. "Oh, Hiccup," Naishara said, "her power will only grow." She then conjured up an image of Kida in the sky. The image twirled with grace, surrounded by graceful dragons. "There is beauty in it, but alsoâ€¦great danger."

As she had said that, the dragons in the sky turned into savage beasts. An image of Hiccup watching the dragons turn ravenous suddenly died in Valka's arms. Specters of a gathering crowd joined Kida in the flames, using the dragons as weapons and attacking Kida's glowing effigy. Hiccup almost cried when he heard a piercing woman's scream that sounded a lot like Kida. "Fear will be her enemy," Naishara concluded. "She can't abuse that power."

Astrid suddenly knew what all this was about. "I think I understand it now," she said. "Basically, Hiccup is bound by his ability to interact with dragons, which also happens to be the same talent that Kida and Valka both had. And if Kida exiled herself from Berk, then the tier is broken. And if the tier is broken, Hiccup's ability will disappear, and heâ€¦will die?" "Now you see why gray appears on his hair," Naishara said. "The more distant he is with dragons, the more he will weaken."

Naishara listened to them intently, without noticing Nia fidgeting through the bottles. "Hey, what does this do?" she asked, turning a green bottle upside down. "No don't!" Naishara exclaimed, running to get the bottle, but she was too late. Nia dropped it, which caused an explosion to rock the hut. The blow also knocked over Naishara to the floor. "Are you okay?" Hiccup asked, running to help Naishara to her feet. That was when he noticed her right eye. The right side of her cheek was scarred.

"Whaâ€¦what happened?" Hiccup asked. "Nothing!" Naishara said, covering her right eye. Turning away, Naishara peered into a vat of water. Seeing her eye, which was white and blinded, she saw a beam of lightning escape from her right eye! "What happened?" Astrid said. "Nothing!" "Maybe you oughta come with us to find my sister, perhaps?" Hiccup asked. "Sure, sure, I go," Naishara said. "Give me time to prepare."

As the others waited outside, Naishara watched herself in the vat of water, examining her right eye. "No, 'dis can't be happening," Naishara said. "The tier broken and I almost exposed dark secret!" The force in her snapped. "No, I can do this," she said. "No one must not know my true nature. To be safe for everyone. Even Hiccup."

As soon as she grabbed her satchel, Naishara joined Hiccup and his friends and they took off on their search for Kida.

15. A Curse, but not a Blessing

Chapter 15: A curse, But not a Blessing

Meanwhile, back in the village of Berk, the weather was getting even worse than when it started. The ash-gray skies became darker than

ever. The clouds were so dark that it began to look like night, even though it was the middle of the day. Even the wind's force was so powerful that everyone had to stay indoors.

"No no, you've got the wood facing the wrong way!" one Viking shouted as another piled wood in a neat stack. "The wood must be facing the left side!" While the two men were arguing, they did not notice the little boy grabbing an armful of wood and running away, shouting, "Papa, look! I found wood for our home!"

Altaira was bundled up in a winter cloak and moving around the village, helping Valka and Kristoff carry heavy cloaks. "Who here needs a cloak?" Kristoff called out. "Berk is very indebted to your kind assistance, your ladyship," one woman said as Altaira handed her a cloak. "The academy is open," she announced to the villagers. "There is soup and hot milk in the Hall of Heroes." She handed a guard the cloaks, telling him, "Here, pass these out." The guard nodded and obeyed.

"Lady Altaira!" one Viking shouted as he and a group of other Vikings approached her. "Do you expect us to just sit here and freeze while you give away all of Berk's trade goods?" "The chief has left me in charge, so he has given me his strict orders," Altaira replied. "Hasn't it dawned on you that the chief may be conspiring with a wicked sorceress to destroy Berk?" the Viking replied angrily. "Do not question the chief!" Altaira snapped. "I am only trying to prevent anarchy from happening in Berk. Besides, how bad could things possibly get worse?"

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Hours later, Hiccup and the others reached the northern side of the island, which was now an area filled with sharp, ice-covered spikes jutting out of the sharp rocks. Apparently, the person responsible for creating them did not want any visitors. The dragons seemed frightened at the sight.

"So, how are you going to stop this curse?" Elfrin asked Hiccup. "I'm going to talk to my sister," Hiccup replied smugly. "That's it?" Hanson said, nearly avoiding an icy spike to his face. "Our whole ice digging business is riding on you talking to your sister? Aren't you afraid of her?" "No. Why would I?" Hiccup replied. "I just thought of the same thing," Nia said, flying into an ice spike. "I bet she's the nicest, kindest, warmest person ever." She didn't even notice her tail coiling around the spike!

Soon, the gang arrived at a steep mountain. "Too steep," Naishara said. "And we only got one rope for one of us, but we can't climb mountains." Astrid said. "Says who?" a voice called. The friends turned and were surprised to see Hiccup climbing at the mountain, with Toothless at his heels. "What are you doing?!" Thorin shouted. "I'm gonna see my sister!" Hiccup shouted back. "Does Kida even want to see you?" Elfrin asked. " 'Cause I hear that people who disappear into the mountains want to be alone." "No one wants to be alone!" Hiccup shouted. "Except maybe you guys. I'm just blocking you out so you don't distract me!" He seemed practically unsuccessful at climbing. "Please tell me I'm almost there!" Hiccup shouted over his shoulder. The friends stared, and it seemed Hiccup was only a few inches from the ground! "Gosh, does the air seem thinner to you from over here?" he called out.

"Guys!" Nia called out. "Don't know if this'll solve the problem, but I found a river that leads exactly where you want to go." "Haha success!" Hiccup said, letting go of his grip and landing on Toothless. "Good job, bud," Hiccup said, patting Toothless on the head. Then, the friends continued up the paths.

Soon, they came up to a clear part of the mountains, where they found trees bent into an elegantly structured palace formation. Surrounded by shimmering ropes of leaves, it was a sight to behold. "Talk about art in motion," Hanson said. "I'm gonna cry." "Go ahead, I won't say anything," Hiccup said, making his way to the entrance. "By the way, you guys should stay out here. Give me at least a minute."

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Carefully, Hiccup pushed through the leaf-covered drapes and stepped inside. He and Toothless found themselves in a rather splendid area of the forest. The trees were intertwined so elegantly, like graceful vines. Everywhere, dragons and tiny dragon fairies were gathered at the ponds, checking their reflections in the crystal blue waters. It was beautiful indeed, but eerily silent. "Kida?" Hiccup began to call out. "It's me, Hiccup." The dragons slowly turned to see the peculiar human before them.

"Hiccup," a voice replied. Hiccup followed her voice and found Kida standing at the top of a large boulder. Hiccup's jaw dropped at Kida's new look.

"Whoa," Hiccup said, amazed. "Kida, youâ€¦look different. But in a good way! In a good way! And this place, it's justâ€¦so amazing." "Thanks," Kida said. "I never knew what I was able to do back then." "Kida, who is that man?" a man older than Kida asked. "He's my brother," Kida answered back. Even Hiccup wondered who this man was. But he seemed strangelyâ€¦familiar. The man wore a green ragged tunic, gray cuffs with matching gloves, and dark gray boots. He had thick and bushy ginger-colored hair, and mahogany colored eyes. Suddenly, it hit Hiccup. _It's Kida's dragon Thunderbolt!_ he thought. _He becameâ€¦human?!_

"Kida," Hiccup asked, "did youâ€¦turn Thunderboltâ€¦into a human?" "Strange, huh?" Kida asked. "Amazing!" Hiccup said. "And Thunderbolt, I neverâ€¦" "Please sir," Thunderbolt told Hiccup, "just call me Thunder."

"Kida," Hiccup said again, "I am so sorry that all of this happened. If I hadn't known any better thanâ€¦" "No, it's fine," Kida said. "You don't have to apologize. But I think you should probably leave. Right now." "Now?" Hiccup asked. "But I just got here." "You don't belong here," Kida said. "You belong back in Berk. I belong here. By myself. Where I can be who I am without hurting anybody."

"Actually," Hiccup started, "about thatâ€¦" "Hiccup!" a tiny voice called out. "Wait, what is that?" Kida asked, surprised. "Hiccup! Hiccup!" the voice said again. It was Nia flying into the cove excitedly. "I'm Nia, and I'm a dragon fairy!" she had shouted. She noticed Kida and stopped her mad flitting. "You created me, Kida," she said. "Remember?" "And you were brought to life?" Kida asked. "I

think so," Nia replied. "Isn't she beautiful?" Hiccup asked. "She looks so much like Toothless. You should show the others what you can do. We can be closer than before. Wouldn't you like that?"

More than anything she had ever hoped for, Kida wanted to show the people of Berk her abilities. But seeing Hiccup's face was yet another constant and haunting reminder of that day when she and Valka were fighting with each other. And seeing Valka burn her harpoon in front of her made Kida feel guilty for herself. Kida turned away from Hiccup, haunted by that flashback, and said, "No, I can't go back. Goodbye, Hiccup."

"Kida, wait!" Hiccup said once he saw his sister walking away from him. "Please don't shut me away again! We can work this out!" Hiccup and Toothless soon began to follow up the steps to catch up with Kida. Now that Hiccup knew her secret, they could still be happy together for the rest of their lives in Berk.

But it wasn't easy for Kida. She was still unsure that the people of Berk would ever accept her again. She could never be able to hide her powers from anyone. What if she hurt someone? What if she hurt Hiccup? But no one would be hurt if she had just kept her powers to her own self-liking. But Kida found that there was something she did not know about.

"Kida, you don't understand," Hiccup said once he reached the top of the summit and found Kida standing by Thunderbolt in a branch-ridden balcony overlooking the cove. "Then what do I not understand?" Kida exclaimed. "It's just that," Hiccup started, "Berk isâ€¦in deep, deep, deep, deepâ€¦dark." "What?" Kida asked, shocked. "You kind of unleashed a century-old curseâ€¦everywhere," Hiccup said. "Everywhere?" Kida asked, alarmed at the news.

"It's okay, though," Hiccup said. "You can just undo the curseâ€¦right?" "No, I can't," Kida said, feeling the leaves swirling around her. "Iâ€¦I don't know how!" "Sure you will," Hiccup said. "I know you will!" It was all too much for Kida to control her emotions. Hearing the news that Berk had fallen into an eternal darkness was hard to keep under control. Maybe she was a monster like everyone thought she'd be. The leaves and branches began to shake violently. "Please Hiccup," Kida said, backing away, "just go away from me!"

"Kida, I'm not leaving without you!" Hiccup said, dodging the branches that shook. "You have to come back!" "No!" Kida said, running from him. "Kida, if you don't come back, Berk won't be the same without you!" Hiccup exclaimed. "Stop!" Kida shouted, trying to avoid Hiccup's pressure. "Trust me, everything will be all right!" Hiccup said.

It was impossible. Kida wanted to go back home, but she didn't find it in her heart to return. Angry and frustrated, Kida shouted at the top of her lungs, "NO, I CAN'T!"

Thunderbolt immediately emitted a loud and ferocious dragon roar, which suddenly caused him to turn back into a dragon. A wave of green lightning released itself from Kida's hands, and it struck Hiccupâ€¦right into his chest! Hiccup fell over in agonized defeat.

Outside, Astrid and the others saw the green coming out of the cove. "What happened?" Thorin asked. "I don't know," Astrid said, with Stormfly keeping watch. RockJaw grunted something in reply. "Come on, let's go in there," Hanson said. "Something's definitely not good," Elfrin said. "Oh no," Naishara whispered as they all stormed inside. "The curse has taken effect."

Kida turned to see if Hiccup was still there. She gasped as soon as she saw Hiccup struggled to stand up. Nia and Toothless ran to Hiccup to help him. Astrid and the others saw what happened and rushed to Hiccup's aid. "Are you okay?" Astrid asked Hiccup.

"I'm okay," Hiccup replied, getting up. "I'm fine." "Hiccup, I warned you to stay away!" Kida exclaimed. "No way!" Hiccup said angrily. "I'm not giving up on us! I know there is another way!" "How?" Kida asked him. "What power do you have to stop this? To stop me?" "I have no idea!" Hiccup shouted, tears welling up in his eyes. "I will not leave here without you!" "Yes, you are!" Kida exclaimed.

Waving her hands, magic shimmered in the sky, suddenly forming a large figure. Soon, a massive green dragon with flashing white and red eyes towered over the friends and their dragons.

Minutes later, the dragon had grabbed the unwanted visitors and threw them down on the river banks. He delivered a massive roar as the gang fell flat on the hard earth. Grabbing Nia by the tail, he prepared to fling her down like a tiny insect. "Boy, you're much stronger than I imagined you to be!" Nia said as she was sent flying to the floor.

"Run!" Hanson said as he and the others made a run for it. "You guys go on ahead!" Thorin said, atop of RockJaw. "I'll take him on!" RockJaw fired massive fireballs at the dragon, hoping to throw him off. Unfortunately, the dragon swallowed the blasts and hurled green fire straight at them. "Oh, I give up!" Thorin said, finally taking off with RockJaw. "Well guys!" she shouted as soon as she and RockJaw caught up to them. "Turns out that that dragon swallows fire and spits it at me!" For the gang, it was now a matter of life and death as they ran from the cursed dragon.

For hours, they had been running. At one point, Astrid had decided to throw the dragon off balance by launching snow from a snow-ridden tree. And it was enough to hit its blind spot. The others cheered her on without noticing that they were reaching a steep cliff. "Stop!" Astrid called out. "What is it?" Naishara asked. "That cliff," Astrid said, "it's a two hundred feet drop straight down!" "Hold on a sec!" Hanson said. "My buddy and I got a plan!"

Moments later, Hiccup and the others found themselves tied with a rope as Elfrin and Hanson executed their "brilliant plan". "You sure this plan work?" Naishara asked when she eyed the dragons holding on to the rope. "There's twenty feet of fresh snow and leaves on the ground. It'll be like landing on seagull feathers," Hanson said. "Okay, ready guys?" Elfrin asked the others. Hiccup and Astrid moved closer to the edge. "On three now," Hanson said without paying attention, "one&|two&|"

"THREE!" Thorin yelled, giving the signal to the dragons, who in turn, thrust the friends to the edge of the cliff, only to leave them hanging in midair.

Meanwhile, Nia had been flitting for hours to find the others, and her wings were tired out. "Boy, am I out of shape," she puffed while noticing her head was in her eyes. She quickly flicked her tail off her face and went back to flying. "Hey Hiccup!" she called out. "Where'd you guys go? We totally lost Monster back there!" Yet she did not notice the large dragon towering over her. As soon as she noticed the shadow looming over her, Nia turned around and faced Monster. "Oh, I was just talking about you! All things good, all things good!" Nia said happily. Suddenly, the dragon picked her up by the tail and flung her to the edge of the cliff where Hiccup and the others stood. She had flown past them. "Hang on, guys!" she called as she was falling to the ground below them.

Suuddenly, the others felt the rope pulling them back! "Aah! What's going on?!" Thorin exclaimed. Hiccup suddenly knew what was happening. The dragon was pulling them back forcefully. "Ugh!" Hanson exclaimed as soon as he found himself dangling on the left end. Monster delivered a piercing roar that almost hurt the friends' ears.

"Okay! You asked for it!" Hiccup exclaimed. He took off his prosthetic leg and used it as a knife to cut off the rope. The friends found themselves falling down to the ground below them. Then, their dragons soon followed them, flying to the ground. They all landed in a puff of snow.

"Ha! I knew it!" Hiccup said as he bounded up from the snow. "Just like landing on feathers!" "HELP ME!" Nia shouted, with half her body sunken in the snow. "I can't feel my tail! I can't feel my tail!" "That's because that's Toothless' tail!" Hanson said as Toothless popped up from the snow. "Oh hey! Quick! Grab my wings!" Nia shouted, and Elfrin picked Nia up by the wings. "We never do that again!" Naishara said as soon as she popped up by Stormfly.

"You okay?" Hiccup asked as he picked Astrid up from the snow. "Better than ever," Astrid said, getting up. "For a guy with a thick skull, you handled it well." "So, now what?" Elfrin asked. "Now what?" Hiccup repeated. "Nowâ€|oh no! Whatâ€|what am I gonna do?! She threw me out! We can't just head back to Berk with the sky like this, and then there's the ice business andâ€|andâ€|"

"Hey Hiccup, calm down. Don't worry about our ice business," Hanson said. "Justâ€|just worry about your hair." "My hair?" Hiccup asked. "My hair's fine. I just fell off a cliff! You guys should see your hair!" "No, Hiccup. Your hair. It's turning gray," Naishara said, holding up a mirror. "Gray?" Hiccup asked. Now Hiccup was shocked to find that two of his brown locks of hair had now lost their color. "It's because she struck you with her powers, isn't it?" Astrid asked. "Does it lookâ€|Oh my goodness!" Hiccup suddenly exclaimed. "Naishara, what happened to you?!"

Everybody turned to find that Naishara's right eye was exposed. And suddenly, from out of nowhere, purple dragon scales slowly popped up on her right arm. "The curse," Naishara whispered. "Now it's starting to affect me." "Does all of this look bad?" Hiccup asked. Hanson thought for a while, then he said, "No." "You hesitated," Thorin said. "Come on," Naishara said.

"To where?" Astrid asked. "To consult with the spirit world,"

Naishara said. "And to see my friends." "The Viking experts?" Hiccup asked. "Viking experts?" Nia wondered aloud. "Yes. They may be able to fix this," Naishara said. "How are you so sure?" Thorin asked. "Because like myself, the spirit world can heal with magic," Naishara said, leading the others to a new path. "I'd like to consider myself a Viking expert," Nia said while catching up to the others as they walked down the narrow paths.

16. How the Other Half will Live

Chapter 16: How the Other Half will Live

Back in the village, the air quality was growing even more stale as black smoke began to pollute the skies. Vikings everywhere were outfitted in heavy cloaks and rubbing their hands over a small fire in the plaza. Only Valka stood in one corner alone, wondering where her son could have gone.

Suddenly, she noticed two children walk up to her. It was North and Winter! Winter held up a small object in her hands. "What's this?" she asked. She slowly unwrapped it, and found a rather coarsely sewn doll of what looked to be Hiccup. "It's a present for Hiccup," Winter said, "when he comes back." "When is Hiccup coming back?" North asked. "He'll come," Valka replied. "Soon."

Meanwhile, Kristoff and Altaira gathered every single Viking to the plaza. "People," Kristoff began, "it seems that the chief may not be able to turn up soon." A loud hush began to fill the village. "However," Altaira said, "my guardian will be attempting to find the chief and bring him back to Berk safely." Kristoff hopped on a Monstrous Nightmare and prepared his supplies. "I need some assistance to find the chief. Any volunteers?" A group of Vikings stepped forward and mounted on some dragons. Their weapons were already prepared.

"Be safe out there," Altaira warned Kristoff before he took off. One stern Viking went up to Kristoff and muttered, "Should you encounter the maiden of Berk and prepare to put an end to this cursed realm forever. Understand?" Kristoff nodded, and soon, he and his mounted warriors had flown off in search of the AWOL maiden.

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Meanwhile, back in her serene cove outside of Berk, Kida looked out over the mountains and felt a great worry rising. She never meant to hit Hiccup with her powers, and she regretted ever doing it.

Pacing around, she tried to control her emotions and focus on the situation. Thunderbolt noticed his master worrying, so he strolled up to her to try and calm her down. But nothing worked.

"Get it together," she muttered to herself, trying to remember what her parents had taught her after all those years. "Control yourself. Don't let fear be your enemy. Don't feel. Don't feel." Suddenly, the stones began crumbling from under her! A trail of green, glasslike stone was forming under feet as she walked. Soon, it began rising up three trees! "Ugh, don't feel," Kida hissed. "Don't feel! DON'T FEEL!"

The graceful branches soon began to change shape, turning into sharp spikes. The water began to form giant spikes of ice as they froze into solid ice. The wind rose and began to change direction as the weather began to match Kida's feelings of regret and worry.

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Some few hours later, Astrid and the others were following Naishara to a place she claimed would be her chance to allow her to consult the spirit world about their situation. Hiccup was too tired from walking, so he ended up riding on Toothless' back. Little Nia was seated comfortably on RockJaw's back as Thorin guided him through the woods. "Look RockJaw!" Nia said, pointing to the night sky. "The sky is awake!" The northern lights looked beautiful as they danced in the sky.

"Achoo!" Hiccup sneezed suddenly, and he blew his nose. Astrid could tell that Hiccup was cold. "Are you cold?" she asked. "I'm okay," Hiccup said, sniffing. "You look sick," Elfrin said. "I'm not sick," Hiccup said with a stuffy nose. "Here, drink this," Naishara said, handing Hiccup a leather flask. "It's warm milk. To help you with cold." Hiccup nodded and began swallowing the milk. Hanson felt sorry for Hiccup, so he draped his fur cape on Hiccup's body. "And are you sure these so-called spirits are going to do something about this?" Astrid asked. "They the ones who gave me my magic powers," Naishara said. "Once a time, I try to contact spirits for guidance on certain spells."

It was not long before they reached another end of the forest that was nestled inside a large fjord with a great pool almost hidden by the trees that surrounded it. It was rather beautiful, but also very silent. "Well, we made it," Naishara said. "Now, to make contact." She reached into her bag and pulled out a blue bottle. After briefly starting a fire, Naishara held the bottle over the flames. She let the gleaming liquid fall slowly from its place as it found its way into the flames. Soon, the ground began rumbling from under everybody. The water rose into a white blaze. The spirits were coming to life!

"Spirits, please present yourselves," Naishara said as the spirits began to intertwine and take shape. Now they appeared as humanlike figures. "Naishara," one spirit who melted out of a tree and took the form of a woman said. "What is it this time?" "We rise from our graves just to hear a plea for help. What can it possibly be now?" "My dear spirits," Naishara said, "there is problem with the chief." "A chief, you say?" the stone spirit said. "Nothing could be wrong with the chief," the earthen spirit said. "Surely, this must be a mistake." "Those things look like ghosts!" Nia exclaimed. "A dragon fairy!" the leaf spirit said. "How is this possible?! Someone must've created her with extraordinary powers!" A silent whisper fell upon the spirits.

Suddenly, a mighty shiver pierced Hiccup and he suddenly fainted. Astrid caught him in time. "Augh!" Naishara exclaimed, grabbing her body. "Someone's got the nervous jitters!" Nia whispered. "No," Astrid said. "Something is wrong." "She is correct," a voice said. The spirits then made way for the water spirit, who took the form of a man. "Something is very wrong." It was then that Naishara noticed

that dragon scales were now popping up on her legs and body.

Astrid walked Hiccup over to the water spirit, who took Hiccup's hands and stared deeply into his weakened eyes. He then noticed that four strands of Hiccup's hair turned a violent shade of gray.

"Hiccup," the water spirit had said, "your life is in grave danger." A silence fell over the friends. "Hiccup, the tier of your dragon soul has collapsed," the spirit continued. "There is dark magic in your heart," he said, "put there by your sister. If the tier is not fixed, to cold, hard stone will you freezeâ€|forever." "No. NO!" Hiccup shouted, with tears in his eyes.

"Naishara, you will have to remove the dark magic from him and fix the tier of his family," the earth spirit commanded. "I can't do that," Naishara said sadly. "If it were on his leg, would be easier that way." "Very well then," the water spirit said. "If your natural magic won't help Hiccup, then the tier must be fixedâ€|if you mend the bond by the second break of dawn."

"Mend the bond?" Hiccup asked. Thorin paused, thinking. "That's it!" Hanson said. "We have to get you back to your mother Valka." "Mom," Hiccup said. "Right. Back to my mom." "Come on, let's go," Astrid said, putting Hiccup on top of Toothless' back. Naishara then thanked the spirits for their help. "Now that's the type of excitement we rarely get to see every year," the tree spirit told the earth spirit.

"Come on, Nia!" Elfrin called out as soon as he and the others prepared to leave. "I'm coming!" Nia said as she flew behind RockJaw and grabbed hold of his tail. "Let's go back to Mom! Now, who's this Mom?"

The dragons turned and headed back to Berk, breaking into flight as they left the valley of the spirits. The sun slowly began to rise. And, one by one, the spirits then melted back into their natural forms.

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During that time, Kristoff and his volunteers had made their way through the icy mountains and trespassed through the snowy terrains of the Northern mountains. Some were mounted on their dragons, while others traveled by foot. They even carried torches, heavy swords, and axes.

Finally, they arrived at the pristine cove that they assumed was where Kida was living. Even as they gaped at the marvelous structure, they knew that looks could be deceiving. The storm was growing even more worse.

"We are here to find Chief Hiccup," Kristoff announced as the other Vikings had dismounted. "Be on guard, but no harm is to come to the maiden of Berk. Understand?" As he climbed off his dragon, Kristoff withdrew his sword from his belt and surveyed his surroundings.

Suddenly, a mass of green land rose up from the ground behind him. It was Monster! The massive dragon refused to move away from the entrance to the cove. But Kristoff and his men fought back. Two Vikings fired arrows from their crossbows. As soon as they hit

Monster's body, Monster emitted a loud roar, forming spikes on his back. Monster reacted by swinging at the men, knocking them to the ground. Only Kristoff rolled over to safety. Suddenly, one of the Vikings spotted Kida closing the drapes of the cove and disappearing inside.

"The maiden!" the Viking shouted. He motioned for the other men to follow him while Kristoff and the others fought Monster. The Vikings charged to the front of the entrance, shouting, "Come on! We need to get her!" Hearing the commotion outside, Kida began to run up the stairs. The Vikings then charged into the cove, looking for Kida. "Up there!" one man shouted, pointing to Kida running up the stairwell. "Get her!"

Kida had reached a dead end as soon as she arrived at the mountain top. That was when the Vikings cornered her. "No! Please!" Kida pleaded. But one Viking shot an arrow at her, only to be blocked by a green shield. "After her!" the Vikings commanded. "No! Stay back!" Kida exclaimed, summoning dragons to attack the men.

Outside the cove, Kristoff and the men were battling Monster in a fight to the death. Kristoff rapidly sliced through Monster's arm, which then began to dissolve into leaves. Roaring in pain, Monster careened off a cliff and fell to the bottom. "Come on, let's go!" Kristoff commanded as he led the other men to the cove.

Back in the cove, Kida was now faced with two other Vikings. One charged toward her with an axe, but it took Kida a second to react by stopping him and pinning him to the trees with tall, sharp wooden spikes. Kida saw the other Viking running with a crossbow in his arm, but Kida waved her arm and made the crossbow fly out of his hands. Then, she conjured up a stone pillar pushing the man to the edge of the mountain top.

It was not long before Kristoff and his men raced into the cove and found the Viking being pushed to the edge of the cliff by Kida. The Viking was only inches away from falling to his death!

"Kida! Don't do this!" Kristoff exclaimed. "Don't be the monster they fear you are!" After hearing Kristoff's voice, she instantly stopped her furious battle of rage and looked into his eyes. This was reminding her that she had gone too far in trying to avoid being who she really was. All her life, she had been trying to keep the people she loved safe, not put them in danger, but now her confidence in all that was slowly beginning to deteriorate.

It was then that Kida did not notice the trapped Viking aiming his axe straight for Kida. Kristoff was the first to act quickly. He pushed the axe out of the Viking's hand, causing it to fly another direction and chop off a branch holding the green glass chandelier. Kida noticed the tree falling above her, and she ran before the tree fell, causing the chandelier to fall on the floor. Shards of glass were flying everywhere. Kida had fallen to the floor, unconscious.

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Hours later, Kida opened her eyes. She found herself in a dark stone room with a tiny window high on the wall, giving out a small light from above. Kida rose from the bench where she laid, and struggled to

move forward. Suddenly, she found herself stuck. Her hands were bound together in heavy chains. Suddenly, Kida realized where she was. She was being held in the underground dungeons of Berk. Looking out the window, she gasped. "Oh no," she whispered. "What have I done?"

Suddenly, a door opened. It was Kristoff, carrying a torch. He opened the door and entered Kida's cell. "Why did you bring me back to my home?" Kida asked.

"I couldn't bring myself to let those men kill you," Kristoff said. "I was only trying to do what was right. I had to bring you back to Berk." "But I'm a danger to Berk," Kida said, gazing at her chained hands. "Please, just bring my brother Hiccup back." "Hiccup has not returned," Kristoff said. "You should just try to make things right here, and help the village stand back up at its feetâ€¦please."

"But I can't," Kida said sadly. "Don't you see? You have to tell the guards to let me go." "I will see what I can do," Kristoff said, getting up from the bench and walking to the exit. Slowly, he closed the door to Kida's cell.

Suddenly, Kida caught a glimpse of the chains on her wrists. A flash of green light was rapidly forming around her arms. The drak magic was beginning to form around the walls and ceiling of the dungeon. Kida's power and emotions were quickly spiraling out of control!

17. Fire and Dark Magic

Chapter 17: Fire and Dark Magic

Toothless, Stormfly, and RockJaw all charged their way down the narrow snow-covered paths at full speed with Astrid, Hiccup, and Thorin on their backs. Elfrin and Hanson were running fast, but they were still lagging behind, so Elfrin tied his sled to RockJaw's tail. Nia soared across the open air like an excited seagull.

Thorin took a second to glance over her shoulder and check on Hiccup. He was shivering from head to toe from the cold air. His skin had become extremely pale. "Just hang on," Thorin said, giving Hiccup her violet cloak to stay warm. Hiccup smiled weakly as Thorin gave him a wink. "Faster, Stormfly! Faster!" Astrid commanded. Nia darted ahead of them as the friends arrived in Berk. "Woohoo!" Nia yelled out. "I'll meet you guys at the Hall of Heroes!" "No Nia, you stay out of sight!" Hanson yelled. "Okay!" Nia exclaimed as she headed the opposite direction. Suddenly, they heard a woman scream. "Aah! It's alive!" she had said. So much for Nia trying to stay out of sight!

At the Hall of Heroes, a Viking spotted the dragons and their riders from a rooftop terrace overlooking the village. "It's the chief!" he exclaimed. He quickly commanded the other guards to open the gates. As soon as the dragons bounded into the village, the gates were open.

Hiccup tried to get off of Toothless, but his arms were too weak. Thorin grabbed Hiccup's body and helped him off. "Don't worry, I got you," Thorin said. "Will you guys be okay?" Hiccup asked, clutching

his stomach. "Don't you worry about us," Hanson said, ruffling his hair. "We'll be okay." They carried Hiccup to the gates, where they met two women at the entrance who helped them.

"You need to get Chief Hiccup back to his mother Valka," Astrid told the servants. "Get him into the Hall of Heroes. Make sure he is safe."

"Oh, you poor boy, you're freezing," the older woman told Hiccup. "Come, let's bring you inside and get you warmed up." They led Hiccup into the Hall of Heroes, leaving the others unsure of what to do next. Then, they turned and left. Only Toothless stayed behind and followed Hiccup.

Inside the Hall of Heroes, Kristoff and Altaira were discussing the possible fate of Berk. Valka was listening intently while Cloudjumper was at her side. "I'm going back out to find Hiccup," Kristoff said, getting up, "but no one goes near the maiden once I go." "Kristoff, you can't go back out there. Berk needs you," Altaira said. "But if anything happens to Hiccup—" Kristoff said. "If anything happens to my son, you're all Berk has left," Valka said sadly.

The door flew open, and the two women brought Hiccup inside. "Hiccup!" Valka exclaimed, rushing to embrace her son. "Oh, my goodness, Hiccup! I thought I lost you! I was so worried that—" "Oh, your hair!" "Hiccup, you're—" "so cold," Altaira said as Hiccup fell into her arms.

"Mom, we need—" "to—" "mend the bond," Hiccup said suddenly. "What?" Valka asked, surprised. "NOW!" Hiccup shouted desperately. Valka was rather taken aback by this gesture. "Slow down, slow down," Valka said.

The servants smiled, knowing this was an important issue. "We'll give you three some privacy," one of the servants said, and they both walked out of the room, leaving Hiccup to talk with Kristoff, Altaira, and Valka. Once they were alone, Altaira asked Hiccup, "What—" "happened to you?" "Kida, she—" "she struck me with her powers," Hiccup said weakly. "But you said she'd never hurt you," Valka said in surprise. "I was wrong," Hiccup said, a tear coming to his eye. "She hit me with dark magic, and the only way to remove it is to mend the bond—" "by the second break of dawn."

Hiccup's body felt weaker than ever, even after he had been outside in the snow and wind. He had told Kristoff and Altaira the whole story of what had happened when he and the others went to search for Kida, up to that horrifying moment in which Kida hit him with her powers. After hearing the whole story, Valka pondered the situation, muttering, "Mend the bond—" "mend the bond—" "The tapestry! Maybe that's the answer!"

Kristoff found the ruptured tapestry, and Altaira was lucky enough to have a needle and thread along with her. Together, the three of them managed to sew the tapestry between Kida and Valka back together. "There! Good as new!" Valka said. "But will it work?" She draped it on Hiccup's body, hoping it will clear the whole thing up. Suddenly, the Hall's doors burst open.

"Hiccup!" Naishara exclaimed. "You again!" Altaira said in shock. "My goodness! What happened to your body?" "Hiccup, there's something I

have to tell you!" Naishara said. Altaira sensed that the two needed to be alone, so she, Kristoff, and Valka left the Hall of Heroes.

"Naisharaâ€¦what are you doing here?" Hiccup asked. "And your armsâ€¦you have dragon scales." "It's the curse!" Naishara said. "It came to me!" "What?" Hiccup asked. "It spoke to me!" Naishara said. "Really, it did!" "But how is it possible, ifâ€¦" "I don't want to go to sleep!"

"What was that?" Hiccup asked. "I'm not going to sleep, and you can't make me!" "It's her," Naishara whispered. "Who?" "The king's daughter," Naishara said. "From the legend of the old king." "You mean that legend that my mom was telling Kida when she wanted her to rule alongside me?" Hiccup asked. "She'sâ€¦real?!" "Yes," Naishara said. "Her name was Sorenia. Her curse been awakened."

"Oh Hiccup," the voice said again. "How do you know me?" Hiccup asked, astonished. "Oh Hiccup. If only somebody ever loved you," the voice said again. "Sorenia?" Hiccup asked. "As the oldest of my kingdom, I never stand a chance," Sorenia's voice said. "What?" Hiccup asked. "As heir, I knew your sister would be preferable to rule," the voice said. "But youâ€¦"

"What about me?" Hiccup asked, outraged. "As your own sister said, you were so desperate to be the new chief of Berk." A sudden ghostlike force swiped the tapestry from Hiccup. "I figured that after you became chief, I'd have to stage a little accident." The force then dropped the tapestry in the fire. "NO! Stop!" Hiccup tried to go after it, but he fell to the floor.

"Kida doomed herself, and you were so stupid enough to go after her," the voice sneered. "Stop! The tapestry!" Hiccup exclaimed, crawling to the fire pit. "Who cares about that dumb old thing?" Sorenia's voice said. "Now I burned that tapestry into ashes; now I don't have to hear that story ever again! All that's left is to murder your sister and send fear throughout this land." "Pleaseâ€¦stop!" Hiccup said. "You're no match for Kida!" "No, YOU are no match for Kida," the voice said. "I, on the other hand, am going to plunge this whole village into eternal darkness."

"Youâ€¦won'tâ€¦get away with this," Hiccup said. "Oh, I already have," the voice sneered, bursting through the doors of the Hall of Heroes and slamming them shut. "No!" Hiccup exclaimed, trying to reach the doors. But the coldness and dark magic had taken over. Suddenly, Naishara realized that her arms and body were now transforming into a reptilian body. She was turning into a dragon!

"Stop! Please!" Hiccup managed to teeter all the way to the doors, but they were locked shut. And Hiccup was too weak to open the doors. The dark magic was completely consuming his body. "Somebody! Help me!" Hiccup called out, his voice sounding raspy. "Please...somebody! Help me!" Suddenly, every single hair on Hiccup's head had lost its color. Hiccup's hair was completely gray. Hiccup looked all around and noticed he was completely alone. "Helpâ€¦me," he whispered. Then, he collapsed.

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Meanwhile, Altaira was busy trying to calm the other villagers who were still complaining about the stormy weather. "It's getting colder by the minute," one Viking said. "Forget starving; we'll soon freeze to death!" "Relax, you must have patience," Altaira said. "Besides, we still do not know if the chief is well enough to stand back up on his feet." The crowd began to panic. "But I assure you all that everything will work out for everyone else here," Kristoff said. "But we must know how in Odin's name we will bring Berk back to its former glory." "Then, you must go see to it that you let Kida mend this problem," Altaira said. "I will," Kristoff said.

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Back inside her dungeon cell, Kida took one last look out of the window. The winds were now picking up speed as ash-gray snow began to fall from the sky. Try as she might, Kida still could not free herself from the chains. Hiccup would never be able to survive this storm.

Maybe I am a monster after all, Kida thought. Her powers only did nothing but plunge the whole village into an eternal nightmare. Kida would have to leave Berk so that nobody else would be hurt. But the only people she ever hurt were her family and herself. Glancing down at her wrists, the shackles were now encased in green ice. The ice began to freeze all the way down to the chains. Pulling harder, Kida suddenly broke free from the chains! The weight of the shackles was so great that they created a large abrasion in the walls. Kida could escape! Kida's emotions took over, and soon, she was gone in a flash.

"This way," Kristoff told the other men as they made their way through the catacombs of the dungeons. "I hope to see that the maiden still remains in the cell." He took out a key and opened the cell doors. But as they entered the dungeon cell, Kida was gone!

"Where is she?" Kristoff asked. "The maiden she has escaped!" one of the men said, pointing to the gaping hole in the walls.

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The wind was howling through the mountains as the other friends made their way into the woods. Thorin adjusted her cloak as she rode on RockJaw's back. Elfrin and Hanson were busy trying to haul their sled back up the pass. Astrid trudged all the way up the path. Only Stormfly was lagging behind, staring longingly back at the village. RockJaw somehow felt the same way, because he threw Thorin off his back and stood alongside Stormfly, staring at the village.

"Come on, RockJaw. Let's go," Thorin said, tugging at the harness around RockJaw's neck. Defiantly, RockJaw sat firmly in place without budging. "I said Come on!" Thorin finally gave one big yank at the harness and RockJaw finally obeyed. But Stormfly just stayed behind the others.

"Stormfly, come on," Astrid called. But Stormfly just grunted. Astrid decided to turn around back, but Stormfly charged directly in front of her. She nudged at Astrid's body. "Hey, slow down!" Astrid said. "What do you want?" Then, Stormfly simply picked up Hanson by the

collar and headed toward the path. "Put me down!" Hanson exclaimed

"Girl, what's gotten into you?" Astrid asked. Stormfly could only grunt and mumble in reply. "I don't understand you when you talk that way," Astrid said. "Girl, Hiccup's back home, safe and sound," Astrid said. "He'll be able to mend the bond as soon as possible. We're not going back."

"Guys, don't speak too soon," Elfrin said, "because there is something going on back in the village." "Really? What's going to happen this time?" Thorin said. The others turned to face the village to clarify their point. But, to their horror, they found a terrifying new storm brewing. Dark clouds began swirling over the Hall of Heroes, lightning coming out of the clouds, and ice forming on the walls, putting it in an even deeper freeze!

"Oh no! Hiccup!" Astrid suddenly realized what was happening. The friends instantly changed their direction and headed back to the village. Thorin mounted Rockjaw and then they bounded down the hillside. Elfrin and Hanson mounted their sled, and Astrid commanded Stormfly to race back to the village. Once again, they were heading to the rescue in order to save their friend.

18. Worth Fighting For

Chapter 18: Worth Fighting For

Inside the Hall of Heroes, Hiccup was curled up on the floors of the Great Hall. He had barely made it to the doors, but now he couldn't stand up, for he was still too weak. Nobody could hear his silent pleas for help. He even failed to notice that Naishara had become a dragon. He was so cold that his heart, chest, and stomach ached with great pain.

Hiccup began to notice the ceiling of the Great Hall beginning to freeze into solid green, glasslike ice. Since Kida had struck him with her powers, Hiccup found that the curse is now affecting him as well. The ice began to form sharp spikes from every corner.

Suddenly, the door handle began to move. Hiccup barely managed to lift his head up, but he fell instantly. At that moment, the lock clicked open. Hiccup found a small twig on the lock.

Soon, the door swung open. It was Nia, accompanied by North and Winter! Nia quickly pricked the twig off of the lock, while Winter happily let Nia fly on her shoulder. Nia and the kids seemed pretty satisfied for themselves, but their happiness soon faded when they saw Hiccup on the floor.

"Hiccup, no!" Nia exclaimed when she saw her new friend on the floor, weak and still. She flitted nervously to the fire pit in the middle of the Great Hall. With help from North, they gathered up bunches of wood and threw them in the pit. Nia struck a match, and in seconds, there was a large roaring fire in the fire pit.

Hiccup noticed Nia floating by the pit, and it made him nervous. "Nia," he managed to say, "Nia, get away from there!" "So that must

be where fire comes from," Nia whispered. "Got to say, I love it!" Her tail accidentally caught in the fire, burning her. "Ow! Don't touch!" she reminded herself.

"Why is your hair old, Hiccup?" Winter asked as she helped her friend up off the floor and brought him closer to the fire. "It's not old; it's gray," Hiccup said. "But I don't look old, right?" "No," Winter said.

Hiccup sat down on a bench, looking worried. "Did you and your mom mend the bond yet?" Nia asked. "It didn't work," Hiccup said. "I don't know who else is able to mend the bond." Suddenly Hiccup gasped as he saw a purple dragon walk gently up to him. He cringed, but the dragon sniffed his leg. Staring at Hiccup, the dragon batted its eyes at him. Hiccup then realized that it was only Naishara, now in her new dragon form.

"I don't know why it didn't work," Hiccup said. "There must be another way to mend the bond." "But we rode all the way here to bring you back," Nia said, not believing what Hiccup said. "Nia, you have to get out of here. They'll kill you," Hiccup said. "We're not leaving you until we find some other way to help you mend the bond," Nia said firmly as she flitted up to Hiccup's shoulder. "Got any ideas?" A single tear rolled down Hiccup's eye. "Iâ€¦I don't even know who my family is anymoreâ€¦" Hiccup suddenly broke down, crying.

"That's okay," Nia said gently. "Family is like putting others' needs before yoursâ€¦you know, like how Astrid and the others brought you back to your mom and left you forever?" "What?" Hiccup asked. Soon, Naishara leaned over to Hiccup's ear and whispered, "Youâ€¦areâ€¦family." "My family loves me?" Hiccup asked. "Wow, you really don't know anything about love, do you?" Nia asked.

Hiccup suddenly noticed that the fire was burning the scales off of Nia's legs and body! "Nia! Your scales are burning off!" Hiccup exclaimed. "Hiccup, even a little burn to a friend is worth fighting for," Nia said. Hiccup smiled as she said this; it meant something to him. Nia noticed her tail sagging from under her and quickly grabbed it. "Okay, maybe not at this right moment!" Nia said nervously.

A gale of wind burst through the Great Hall, sending a chill throughout the entire room. Hiccup shuddered in fear. "Don't worry, I got it," Winter said as she rushed to close the opening. She suddenly caught a glimpse of something approaching the horizon. "Hold on! I'm getting something!" Nia said, flying up to the opening. Using her dragon senses, she saw what the object was.

"It's Astrid and the others!" she shouted gleefully. "They're coming back this way!" "They are?" Hiccup asked. "Wow they're picking up speed!" Nia said. "Boy, I guess I was wrong. I guess Astrid doesn't love you enough to leave you behind."

"That's it!" Hiccup exclaimed. "Come on, Naishara. Help me up!" Naishara's dragon body obeyed Hiccup's command and helped him stand up. "No Hiccup!" Winter said, pushing Hiccup back. "Stay here!" "But I have to help the others," Hiccup said. "No, Winter's right. You have to stay here and keep warm," North said.

Hiccup was serious. "I have to reach the others before it's too

late," he said. "Why?" Nia asked. Suddenly, it hit her. "That's it!" she exclaimed. "There's your way to mend the bond right there, riding across the fjords like a troupe of valiant, pungent dragon kings and queens!" She eagerly grabbed the sleeve of Hiccup's shirt. "C'mon let's go!"

Not before long, sheets of green ice began to grind deeper into the walls of the Great Hall. Hiccup and the kids tried to get to the left wing of the Hall of Heroes as soon as possible. But as they were about to reach it, large spikes of ice jutted out of the bottom, blocking their path. "This way!" Nia exclaimed, pulling Hiccup to another safe path. But every path they tried was no use; ice seemed to block their every path!

Suddenly, Winter had an idea. "The windows!" she yelled out. Hiccup saw what she meant, for he saw another opening through the top window. Climbing up several steps, they reached the window. "Are you sure this is safe?" Hiccup asked. "I'll break it!" Nia said, volunteering to help. "You can't. You're too fragile," Hiccup said. "I'm part Night Fury! I got this!" Nia whistled for Toothless, and he eagerly bounded up to them. Then, the two fired multiple fire blasts to shatter the glass.

Winter pushed Hiccup down the snowy hills, making him glide down to safely to the ground. Winter and North followed him after. "Now you guys go somewhere safe. It's dangerous out here," Hiccup told them, and they ran off to safety. Nia flew out, but she was carried off by the winds. "Don't worry about me! I'll catch up!" Nia called as Toothless and Hiccup both ran off towards their friends.

XX

The storm was beginning to grow dangerously stronger as winds began to rise and blow the trees violently. The air grew more rigid as snow and hail began to hit the earth harder than ever. The ice began to shift its formation, making walking on the surface extremely deadly.

"Astrid!" Hiccup called out, hoping that Astrid would be able to hear him. "Thorin! Elfrin! Hanson!" But it seemed impossible, because the loud and howling winds had drowned out his cries of distress. The snow hit Hiccup's face hard, almost blinding him. It hurt him to see that the ice had frozen the ocean, causing the ships to turn on their sides.

The wind began to toss Hiccup off balance, but he and Toothless continued their trek up the pass. A nearby ice block began to hurl itself towards the two, but Toothless was lucky enough to blast it with fire and smash it into pieces. "Nice job, bud," Hiccup said. Step by step, he tried to endure the storm—"this was it! This was his last chance for survival!

"Astrid!" Hiccup called out once more, hoping to use his last bit of strength. But it was likely that Hiccup could endure this violent storm. The dark magic was quickly spreading throughout his entire body, weakening him even more. Hiccup glanced down at his hands, and was shocked to discover that his fingertips were slowly turning gray. Hiccup ignored this and wrapped his cloak tighter and continued walking.

XX

Not too far from the village, but completely enveloped by the storm, Thorin and Astrid raced their dragons through the icy surfaces, desperately trying to race back to Hiccup. But dodging the ice was dangerous for them, even their dragons.

"Come on, Stormfly! Faster!" Astrid yelled out as Stormfly picked up speed. "Astrid! I don't think this weather is safe for the dragons!" Hanson yelled out! "Guys, we can't just give up hope!" Thorin said. "We have to get to Hiccup!"

Suddenly, the ice began to shift dangerously, causing the ships to drop to the icy surface and splintering into shards of wood. The ice underneath them began to crackle and break. They were sinking! Astrid barely managed to escape the frigid waters as they bounded out of the ice.

"Astrid! Astrid!" Hanson called out. He was bobbing up on the freezing water in his sled. Elfrin had held on to an ice block with his trusty ice digging spear. "Hanson! Grab my hand!" Astrid yelled out, extending her hand toward Hanson. Hanson, in turn, threw his sword Caliburn toward Astrid, luckily with its scabbard on. Hanson then thrust himself on top of Stormfly.

"Help me!" Elfrin shouted out as he was beginning to sink into the icy waters. Stormfly heard his cry and immediately snatched Elfrin up with her jaws. She then bounded toward a safe spot and gently placed Elfrin down.

"Wait, where's Thorin?" Elfrin asked. Suddenly, the three friends watched in horror as they discovered Thorin and RockJaw trying to dodge the ice blocks and freezing water in front of them. "Thorin!" Astrid called out. "Thorin, you're going to have to jump!" "Jump?! Are you insane?!" Thorin shouted. "You have to do it!" Astrid yelled. Thorin obeyed and told RockJaw, "RockJaw, jump!" RockJaw bravely jumped over the waters, throwing Thorin to safety. Then he sank beneath the waves.

"RockJaw!" Thorin cried out. "RockJaw!" At that moment, RockJaw leaped out of the water and landed on the surface. He gave out a mild roar to let her know he was okay.

"Good boy!" Thorin exclaimed. "RockJaw, look for Hiccup!" RockJaw obeyed and flew to find Hiccup. "Thorin immediately hopped on Stormfly, and the friends turned back to find Hiccup.

XX

Kristoff, Altairea, and Valka were also out on the frozen valley, struggling to endure the storm. They had been pursuing Kida, but they could not find her anywhere. Soon, Cloudjumper let out a roar. He saw Kida attempting to get on Thunderbolt and proceeding run away forever!

"Kida!" Kristoff shouted through the howling winds. "You can't run from this!" "Don't try to stop me!" Kida exclaimed. "Please! You can't run from yourself! You're our only hope!" Altairea yelled out.

"Please! Just take good care of my brother!" Kida yelled. "Just care for myâ€|"

"Your brother?!" the shrill voice of Sorenia's demon spirit laughed menacingly. "Your brother? He returned from the mountains, weak and cold! He said you possessed his heart with dark magic!"

"No!" Kida said, overwhelmed at what her powers had done. Her worst nightmare had become a reality. "They tried to save him, but they were too late!" Sorenia's voice shouted. "His skin was ice! His hair turned gray! Your own brother is dead because of you!"

"No, stop!" Kida cried out. But in the nick of time, Naishara's dragon body had rushed to Kida, yelling, "Kida! No run away!" "Why?! Why can't I run?!" Kida shouted. Suddenly, Naishara leaped up onto Kida, which ultimately caused a beam of purple light to flash in front of Kida!

XX

"_Whereâ€|where am I?" Kida asked herself. "What is this place?" Everywhere around her was dark. There was no village, no Great Hall, nothing. She suddenly realized she was in a dream state. "Sorenia," a voice said. Kida turned around, facing a group of Vikings!_

"_Sorenia, descendant of the great king Aurodon," a tall, burly Viking announced, "you are hereby brought forth before the council of Berk to face judgment for crimes against the village." "What?" Kida asked. "You have been charged with defying traditional beliefs of ruling with a kindred spirit, thus betraying your father and the royal family of Berk. Therefore, we will be sentencing you to death." "But Iâ€|" Kida began to say, but instantly heard a girl sobbing. Lightning cracked as soon as Kida saw who the victim was. Approaching the council was a young woman with black hair, wearing a bright green dress. She had her hands locked in shackles!_

"_No!" she cried out. "No!" She continued crying as she approached the front. "Do you have anything to say for yourself?" the head judge asked. "I was only trying my best," she weeped. "Aye," the judge exclaimed, "with fire! You defied your traditionsâ€|by speaking with dragons!" "Huh?" Kida exclaimed. "And you'll be cursed with all damnation by these good people!" the judge shouted as the council approached Sorenia._

"_No! You can't do this!" Kida shouted. But no one seemed to hear her. "I didn't do anything wrong!" Sorenia exclaimed. "You will hereby be shunned against your kingdom!" the judge shouted. "And we will be sentencing you to be hanged by the noose thereafter!"_

Suddenly, a strange thing began to happen. Sorenia's body began to glow with green light. Seeing the council close in on her, Sorenia shouted, "Stop!" They heard nothing. "Leave me alone!" she shouted once more. "Or I'll make you sorry! I'LL MAKE ALL OF YOU SORRY!" She then exploded in front of the judges right before Kida's eyes!

XX

It was then that Kida finally realized what was happening. It became clear to her that the selfish princess that Valka was talking about in the ancient legend...was the one who had cursed the village of Berk and caused it to plunge into an eternal darkness! "Then that meansâ€¦that means I have to lift the curse by attacking it from the source!" Kida exclaimed.

"You think you're so tough?" Sorenia shouted. "You stand a chance against nothing! Nothing! Because you're a worthless fool!" "You're wrong!" Kida shouted. "You started this fire, and now I'm going to extinguish it!" Soon, it will become a showdown against a spirit and a mere mortal.

19. Eternal Nightmare

Chapter 19: Eternal Nightmare

Kida was ready to fight back against the curse once and for all. She was determined to put her won fears to rest and let a new dream come to light in her. But Sorenia's spirit had a few dark tricks in her sleeve.

Kida tried to steady herself and keep good balance, but suddenly, she felt two sharp lightning bolts hit her hard. She fell back, only to be caught by Naishara and Thunderbolt. Unconscious, she felt the spirit's presence drawing nearer to her. "Leave me alone!" Sorenia muttered angrily.

"No," Kida said. "No, I won't leave you!" Altaira, Kristoff, and Valka watched helplessly as Kida confronted the spirit. "Just listen to me!" Kida approached the spirit, who then began to distance herself from Kida. "Umâ€¦once upon a time," Kida recited gently, "long agoâ€¦thereâ€¦there was a young woman!" "What?!" Sorenia asked in disgust. "Aâ€¦a young woman," Kida said again, "who wasâ€¦who was different than all the other people in her village!"

"I'm not listening!" Sorenia yelled, ignoring Kida and splitting herself into four multiple spirits, surrounding Kida and zapping her! "This woman, she could see and do things thatâ€¦that nobody would understand!" Kida said, enduring each painful blast. "And that made them scared of her!" Kida exclaimed. "I don't like this story!" Sorenia yelled out.

"She turned away from people," Kida said, "and became sad and lonelyâ€¦that she had no one to turn to!" "STOP IT!" Sorenia shouted, suddenly exploding and sending waves of green fire through the dark village.

Everything became dark and grim. Soon, cracks of lightning began to resurface onto the ground. Soon, Sorenia had floated back up from underground, but somehow, she looked different. Now, she had green scales all over her face and body, with lightning crackling from her tattered dress.

Kida picked herself up, battered and bruised. She was not ready to give up just yet. "The more the woman turned away from people, the more scared they became of her," Kida kept reciting, "and they did something awful to her!" "Ugh!" Sorenia scoffed in disgust. "They

became so scared," Kida exclaimed, "that they told her she could not rule her kingdom. And they took her away and they killed her!"

"Stop!" Sorenia cried out, her ghostlike face suddenly beginning to shrink and distort itself. "And even though she was dead, something in her came back!" Kida yelled out. "No!" Sorenia shouted, her face splitting and regenerating uncontrollably. "And this part of her wouldn't go away for three hundred years!" Kida said once again. "SHUT UP!" Sorenia yelled out angrily. "And the longer it stayed, the less there was of that woman," Kida concluded.

"NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!" Sorenia delivered a shriek so high-pitchingly loud that the ice and stone all around the village began to rumble and crack everywhere.

XX

Far from the battle, Toothless braved the mighty winds and pounding hail to try and bring his companion Hiccup to the rest of his friends. Try as he might, Hiccup could barely hold on to the reins of Toothless' saddle. "Astrid!" Hiccup called out. But no one heard him. He felt the dark magic slowly consuming him.

"Hiccup!" Astrid called out, with Hanson and Elfrin on board. "Hiccup!" Thorin called out as she was being dragged on the little sled. At last, she spotted RockJaw. "RockJaw!" she exclaimed as he landed and allowed Thorin to hop on his back. "We have to find Hiccup!" she exclaimed as she and the others galloped off to the village.

XX

During the action, everyone had watched as Sorenia's demonic spirit battled against Kida and her dragons. "I'll make you SUFFER!" Sorenia exploded, with her face rapidly morphing into a dragon's face.

"Why?!" Kida said as she hid behind Thunderbolt, who blasted fire at hurling boulders that flew past them. "Because!" Sorenia exploded, then pausing, "becauseâ€¦!"

"Because you want everyone to get hurt just as much as you are!" Kida said, regaining her bearings. "So, whenever you wake up, you play this mean game! But you don't play fair!" As she said that, she blasted green lightning at Sorenia, which only seemed to deflect her target. "THEY HURT ME!" Sorenia shouted angrily. "So you're hurting them back?!" Kida shouted among the howling winds. "I wanted everyone to see how rotten they are!" Sorenia exclaimed.

Kida was quick to dodge her attacks. "You're just like them, Sorenia!" she exclaimed. "No I'm not!" Sorenia exclaimed tearfully. "You're a traitor and a bully!" Kida shouted. "NO I'M NOT!" Sorenia shouted angrily, instantly zapping into the ground. The ice began to glow with green light.

Suddenly, Kida felt an invisible hand scooping her up and hurling her around and tossing her like a worn rag doll. Sorenia then flung Kida

back and forth, causing her to crash headlong into the rooftop of a house three times. Just as Sorenia prepared to pummel Kida into the ground, her attack was deflected by Naishara!

"What the hell?" Kristoff and Altaira were unsure of how to process this situation, but Valka suddenly spotted Thunderbolt and Cloudjumper banding together with Naishara to take down Sorenia once and for all. Thunderbolt lunged for Sorenia and roared so loudly, but an unseen shield was deflecting his attack, hurling him straight into the plaza. Cloudjumper saw this and, while flying high into the air, he blasted fire. But Sorenia had caught the flames and blasted Cloudjumper with green flames.

"I'LL FINISH YOU ALL!" Sorenia prepared to send a great wave of fire raining down on Berk. Soon, Naishara threw herself toward Sorenia, nearly blocking her attack and sending the fire toward the plaza. Naishara roared viciously while standing her ground. "I will kill all of you! And your worthless, pathetic dragons as well!" Sorenia exclaimed, lunging toward Naishara. But Naishara then began to wrestle Sorenia as they fought each other. Dark clouds began to swirl around them as they battled each other. "You are no match against me!" Sorenia shouted as she punched Naishara's snout. Naishara responded by biting Sorenia's arm, which caused her to howl in pain.

Kida was alone, trying to stand on her feet. But instead, she was knocked down by a thrash of lightning that sent her to the ground. It was Sorenia behind her! "You've lost, princess!" Sorenia yelled out angrily. "You and your pathetic dragons are no match against my powerful spirit. Now I will send great fear throughout this land! Dreams will be turned into nightmares! Every single one of you will perish once and for all! But first!" Sorenia then sent lightning bolts into the ground, causing it to split open, revealing a glowing green abyss! "First, I'm going to take out your own life!" Sorenia then pointed at Kida.

A great and mighty force then began to pull Kida, proceeding to suck her whole into the abyss! Sorenia glared angrily at Kida as she was resisting against the force. "Look Sorenia, you got this all wrong!" Kida shouted. "They may have done something terrible to you in the past, but that doesn't mean you should, too! All that's left of you now is mean and horrible!" "That's not true!" Sorenia protested.

"Yes it is!" Kida exclaimed, suddenly approaching Sorenia. "This is wrong and you know it!" Sorenia's eyes began to flash a bright green as her whole face and body began to twist and morph into rapid hybrid forms. "You've spent a whole eternity remembering the bad people; you must've forgotten the good ones!" Kida exclaimed. "There must have been somebody from your past who actually loved you, and cared for you. You don't remember them?"

"Leave me alone!" Sorenia shouted, trying to drive Kida away. "You're not alone!" Kida screamed. "You have to remember!" "Get away from me!" Sorenia shrieked, tears coming out of her eyes. "Please, you can't just spend an entire decade remembering those that did you wrong. You have to forget about them and remember those who loved you as a family!" "I SAID GET AWAY FROM ME!" Sorenia exploded, blasting Kida with a lightning bolt.

"Just tell me, okay. Why do you care so much about loving a family? You were never capable of loving your own family!" Sorenia shouted. "I do have a family!" Kida yelled back. "A loving and caring family. It's little and broken, but still good." "Tell me, if you loved your family so much, why did you leave them?!" Sorenia exploded. "Because a part of me was broken!" Kida exploded back.

"You were broken?!" Sorenia taunted angrily. "You were never capable of embracing your true powers! Your family never cared about seeing that true potential from within you!" "That is not true!" Kida shouted, tears flowing from her eyes. "I have powerful gifts, and they came from my family!" "A family of dragon killers?!" Sorenia teased. "You were always so different! You and your mother loved dragons, your entire village hated dragons! What does that make you?!"

"But now, everything has changed! We let dragons become our friends, and you still can't embrace that?!" Kida asked. "Why?!" "Because you weren't the one to mend the bond between you and dragons; it was your pathetic excuse of a brother!" Sorenia shouted angrily. Kida paused, she suddenly realized that Sorenia was talking about Hiccup. "Hiccup," she whispered.

"I knew you were just too dumb enough to leave your family behind, and your brother was stupid enough to go back for you!" Sorenia exploded. "Now your family is breaking up more than ever. Your own brother is dead because of you!"

Overwhelmed by the emotions that were consuming her, Kida had dropped to her knees, with her head in her hands. As she had done that, the storm immediately drew to a sudden halt. The wind and snow had ceased, leaving the snowflakes and fog suspended in the air. The people of Berk watched in a hushed silence as they saw their maiden kneeling in the ice.

XX

Amidst the sudden stillness of the cloud-covered night, Astrid and the others were finally able to spot Hiccup and Toothless. Hiccup held on to Toothless' neck while he clutched his chest. His skin was beginning to turn pale, almost white. He was weakening with every step he took. Barely lifting his head, Hiccup slowly muttered, "Astrid." "Hiccup!" Thorin called out desperately from far away. "Hang on bud, we're coming!" The other friends began to run towards Hiccup.

Hiccup tried to see if his friends were coming to the rescue, but suddenly, something caught his eye in the other direction. Was that his sister Kida? Was she out here among the ice? Hiccup tried to look.

That was when he saw Sorenia's demonic spirit floating over Kida, with her face buried in her hands. Hiccup watched in horror as Sorenia withdrew lightning bolts from her hands and raised them over Kida's body. She took her time, almost smiling maniacally.

Hiccup knew that reaching Astrid and the others would be his final chance for survival, but he could not bear to watch his sister being killed by an evil demon. "Come on Toothless," Hiccup commanded, and

the two turned away from the others and walked to Kida.

"Kida!" Hiccup exclaimed, suddenly feeling his face beginning to freeze into rock. He limped forward toward Kida, trying to reach her in time. "Now I will finish you once and for all," Sorenia muttered, smiling cruelly. With his last surge of energy, Hiccup lunged forward, using every last ounce of his strength. He threw himself in front of Kida to block Sorenia's attack. "NO!" Hiccup screamed.

At that moment, Hiccup's entire body froze, turning into solid stone. Sorenia's lightning bolts came down at full strength onto Hiccup's body. The lightning bounced off of Hiccup's frozen hand and lunged toward Sorenia's chest! Sorenia uttered her last shriek before the lightning struck her chest and killing her, causing her spirit to explosively disappear. A bright green mushroom cloud sent waves of green light all across Berk. The spirit was forever gone, silently dissolving into tiny green specks of bright green dust.

20. Act of True Love

Chapter 20: Act of True Love

Kida had braced herself for the impending attack, but nothing had happened to her. She was still alive! At the sound of the explosion, Kida slowly turned around and saw Hiccup's frozen stone body, with one arm raised to shield his sister.

"HICCUP!" Kida instantly cried out, standing up and facing her unseeing brother. Her fingers trembled as her hands cradled her brother's lifeless face and blank eyes. "Kida!" Valka shouted, running to see if her daughter was safe. She gasped in horror at the sight of her son, who was now a lifeless statue. "No Hiccup," Kida began to weep. "No, please, no!" Tears began to fill her eyes as Kida stood, facing Hiccup.

Behind them, Astrid and the other friends had finally reached the pass. "Oh no!" Thorin whispered tearfully as she gaped at the sight of Hiccup. Astrid found herself almost crying to see her boyfriend, the only guy she ever really loved, frozen into stone. Hanson and Elfrin were practically in shock at the sight. Stormfly gently nudged RockJaw, but they were so sad.

Nia, along with North and Winter, finally made their way out into the plaza. As they caught a glimpse of Hiccup, they paused. Nia was very shocked to see Hiccup so still, without a heartbeat or movement. "Hiccup?" she asked sadly. She flitted away from the others, who were now in a deep sadness.

All across the village, the other Vikings all began to bow their heads in mourning grief. "Let us pray to the gods of Valhalla," Kristoff and Altaira both whispered, "for another great man has fallen." Altaira felt tears coming to her eyes as the other dignitaries all began to mourn for their chief as they watched from the shore. A deafening silence fell over the village.

"Oh Hiccup," Kida wept, "I'm sorry. This was all my fault. I did this to you to us. Please, don't do this to me. I just want you back." Tears filled her eyes as she gently hugged the frozen figure before her. "I want you back, my little brother." Valka, with tears

streaming out of her eyes, buried her face in her hands and sobbed uncontrollably. Toothless began to whimper and moan loudly, but Kristoff held him down, worried that Toothless might have an emotional outburst.

"Youâ€|you've always been part of our family, and I never let you go," Valka sobbed. "I should've never left you in the first place." Valka continued sobbing as she hugged Hiccup. But it did no good to help her son. Naishara bowed her head in a deep silence as Kida approached them and hugged Hiccup. Everyone else did not happen to notice the light of dawn slowly approaching.

"Hiccup, even though I used to hate you a lot, because of your lanky, unattractive image, please, just come back to us," Astrid said, tears coming to her eyes. "I may be new to this village Hiccup, but you taught me how to be the best me I can be," Thorin said tearfully. "Hiccup, you're an awesome guy, but please return to us. For the sake of our village," Hanson said as he hugged a sobbing Elfrin.

The light of dawn began to slowly blanket the village with a slow and warm feeling. But the splendor of the view did not cure Kida's self-loathing as she mourned her brother's loss. Valka hugged the two figures, ashamed that she had lost another one she loved. Kida continued to sob as she buried her face into Hiccup's neck. "I love you," she whispered tearfully.

Suddenly, as Kida had hugged her brother, tiny drops of sparkling green liquid began to form on Hiccup's fingertips. Soon, his fingers slowly began to bend. Hiccup was beginning to thaw!

"He moved!" Thorin whispered to Astrid. Astrid picked up her head and gasped in shock. Elfrin and Hanson watched as the skin on Hiccup's hand returned to a healthier shade of pink. Now Hiccup's entire arm began to move slowly. The flesh on his skin was returning to normal. His body was being restored to its original state. He was becoming human again! "He's alive!" Hanson exclaimed silently.

Kida and Valka failed to notice the green light flashing before their eyes as they mourned over the boy that they loved the most. Kida wept in broken sobs as she continued embracing her brother. She suddenly felt a slight touch to her hair. Somebody was caressing her hair! Gasping, Kida looked up abruptlyâ€|and saw Hiccup! Hiccup gave a slight chuckle as he faced his sister.

"Hiccup!" Kida exclaimed. "You're back!" Giggling, Hiccup repeatedly began to kiss his sister in the face. "You've changed!" Kida said, smiling. "Sisâ€|we both have," Hiccup whispered, then he gently planted a small kiss on her forehead. "Oh, my baby boy!" Valka said, hugging Hiccup tightly. "Youâ€|you sacrificed your own life to save your sister?" "I think so," Hiccup muttered, rubbing his head. Still weak, Hiccup staggered over to Kida and simply told her, "I love you."

Nia was absolutely awestruck. Gasping, she exclaimed, "An act of true love will mend the bond and restore the tier!" It turned out that it was Kida and Valka who both mended the bond, and Hiccup's sacrifice had saved his own life!

Kida had heard the words Nia said and, turning them over in her mind, suddenly realized their full meaning. "Love will mend the

bondâ€|Love. That's it!" Kida hugged Hiccup once more and laughed. "What's it?" Nia asked, confused.

Kida took a step back and raised her arms above her head. Pretty soon, the snowflakes began to lift into the sky! The ground below them began to rumble and move. The ice and snow had begun to melt. The dark clouds had begun to shift and move away, unveiling the blinding sunlight of the clear blue skies. The waters of the fjords began to melt, and the cracks on the stones and boulders began to restore themselves back to their original forms.

The melting waters had thawed and the ground began to grow stable, lifting Kida and the others onto a flat surface. Soon, every single Viking ship was rooted back up to its upright position. Kida waved her hands one last time and revealed a crystal blue sky. All of the summer warmth across the village had spread into one joyous moment.

All across Berk, everyone began to cheer in triumphing victory!

"Woohoo! We did it!" Thorin shouted, pumping her fists in the air. "Got to say, that was freaky. But I enjoyed every bit of it!" Astrid said. Even the dragons were getting all jittery from the excitement that unfolded before them.

"Hands down, this is perhaps the best day of my life!" Nia exclaimed. But, once again, the little dragon fairy found her scales quickly popping off of her body, legs, and arms! "And," she added, "quite possibly my last."

Kida glanced over at the molting fairy and gasped. "Oh, Nia!" she exclaimed. "Hang on there, girl." With a wave of her hand, Kida sent a wave of green light twirling Nia around. Nia was quickly turned back to normal and looked like herself again. And best of all, Kida finally gave her a permanent Night Fury soul in her heart. Now she could live forever as a dragon fairy! "My own personal Night Fury soul!" Nia exclaimed. "Ha! How are we doing this?"

Hiccup and Kida both smiled at Nia. Then, Hiccup felt a small tug at his leg. He looked down and saw Naishara. But she was still stuck in her dragon form. "But what about Naishara?" Hiccup asked. "I thought the curse would also be lifted from her too." Naishara pushed her head against Hiccup's hand, and suddenlyâ€|Hiccup, Kida, and Naishara saw a green light resurfacing. It was Sorenia again!

Suddenly, light flashed before them. They disappeared in the blink of an eye!

XX

"Huh? Where are we?" Hiccup asked, still hugging Kida. "The dream state," Kida whispered as soon as she opened her eyes. The three of them were now inside a serene forested cove, surrounded by trees and inhabited by butterflies.

"Hello." Hiccup, Kida, and Naishara turned and saw Sorenia. But this time, she was back to her human form. "I forgot what it was likeâ€|to have somebody in my family who actually cared about me," she said. "Why did you bring us here?" Kida asked.

"So I can tell you who I really was," Sorenia said. "Sorenâ€|My name was Soren." "But what is this place?" Hiccup asked. Sorenia looked at him sad, then she said, "My daddy brought me and my brothers and sister here." Walking up to the oak tree, she began to reminisce in her favorite memories. "We sat under this tree," Sorenia said, "and my father told us stories. They all had happy endings."

"And then what happened?" Kida asked. "Andâ€|" Sorenia said, her eyes flashing green, "and then, Those horrible men came and took me away! And I never saw them again!" The anger in her eyes caused a butterfly's wings to burn into ashes. Opening her eyes, she was shocked to realize she destroyed a butterfly. Tearing up, she ran from Kida and Hiccup, sobbing.

"Soren," Hiccup said as Sorenia was crying, "sometimes, when people get scared, they do really terrible things. You probably got so scared back thereâ€|that you forgot who you are. But I don't think you're a monster. Just, not really."

"You think so?" Sorenia asked, wiping her eye. "Yea," Kida said. "Even though they do something bad, it doesn't mean you should hurt them back too." "Butâ€|what about the people who hurt you? And your brother?" Sorenia asked. "Didn't you ever want to make them suffer?" "I would have," Hiccup said, "but what good would that do?" Sorenia looked all around her. "Look Soren, I know you've had a troubled past," Kida said, "but I still believe there's someone out there, waiting for you," Kida said.

Sorenia walked up to the tree, placing one hand on the trunk. "Look, this is really nice and all," Hiccup said, "but I really would appreciate itâ€|if you'd turn my friend back into a human again." Sorenia paid no attention, for she kept staring at the tree.

"You know, this does look like a nice place," Hiccup said, "for someone to, you know, go to sleep." He then sat beneath the tree's stump gently hugging Naishara. Kida followed his example and sat by the tree. Seeing the three together tugged at Sorenia's heart and soon found herself seated next to Hiccup. Smiling at Hiccup, Sorenia finally closed her eyes and went to sleep.

Suddenly, an extraordinary thing happened. Sorenia's skin began to dissolve and crackle into light. Her spirit was being lifted into the sky! Slowly, Sorenia's body began to disappear into the light and lifted itself from her body. Soon, the entire world around them began to crackle and disappear before them. Then, they were instantly transported back into reality.

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With bright light flashing before them, Kida and Hiccup found themselves backâ€|with Naishara, still in her dragon form. "Please Naishara," Hiccup said, "turn back to a humanâ€|for me."

Suddenly, as if his words turned to his own mind, Naishara was surrounded by a blinding white light. The shape of Naishara's body began to twist and morph into various forms. Finally, she took her human form. Hiccup watched as Naishara was slowly placed to the ground, with her eyes flashing white.

Naishara fell into Hiccup's arms. "Whatâ€¦happen?" she asked weakly. "Naishara, it's over," Hiccup said. "Everything's back to normal again." "It is?" Naishara asked. "We're back," Kida said. "And I have something for your bad eye," Hiccup said, holding up something. "To prevent it from changing you."

At that notion, Hiccup outfitted Naishara's blind right eye with a black eye patch. He then lifted Naishara's bangs and wrapped her hair in a braid. "I love it," Naishara said. "Thank youâ€|Chief."

Hiccup smiled. He began to feel warmer already. He looked over to his friends and smiled to them. Then, he smiled to his mother, Kristoff, Altaira, and Cloudjumper. Then, he hugged Kida again. The two siblings held on tightly to one another. Neither one of them wanted to let go.

21. A Brand New Beginning

Chapter 21: A Brand New Beginning

The clear blue skies had once again returned to Berk as the summer air created a deep blue haze into the clouds. The waters were full of sjips moving cargo and people about.

"Mommy! Mommy! Hurry up!" Winter shouted, pulling her mother's hand toward the Great Hall. "Winter, please be patient. We'll get there soon," her mother replied. "But I want to go there now!" Winter said. "I don't want to miss Hiccup become the new chief!" "Me too! I want to go too!" North said. They both pulled their mother's arms towards the Great Hall in excitement.

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Millions of people were gathered outside the front steps to the Great Hall to finally witness the day in which Hiccup would now become the new chief of the village. Even all of the dragons were gathered to revel in this glorious occasion. Soon, the crowd was brought to a hush as soon as Altairea had appeared before them.

"My good people," she began, "we have been rescued from plunging into an eternal nightmare when the darkness first came upon these good villagers. Upon which we realized that the darkness itself was brought by a terrible spirit. But this spirit has once again lifted to the skies, and has now left us in peace."

"Thus, it gives us great astonishment to learn that our new chief in command, Hiccup, was also saved from a plague that almost took his own life," Kristoff said. "Of course, what the gods have given us, will henceforth be commemorated in this ceremony."

Altaira drew up a ceremonial scepter and strode over to Hiccup, who awkwardly knelt down at her presence. "I am proud to announce that you, Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III," Altaira announced while touching both Hiccup's shoulders with the scepter, "are now the new chief and protector of Berk and all its good people." Everyone clapped as soon as Hiccup received the Crest of the White Dragon. "You go get 'em, baby!" Astrid yelled out. Hiccup felt slightly embarrassed.

"And, as for you, Kida," Kristoff announced while approaching Kida, "the first-born descendant of Stoick the Vast and Valka, you have shown excellent bravery, courage, and stamina to prove yourself worthy to accept such nobility and responsibility to care and protect the ones you love." "And it gives us great pleasure," Altaira said, placing an elegant dragon-shaped tiara on Kida's head, "to welcome youâ€|as the chief's new dragon maiden and second in command!"

Everyone across the village began to erupt in applause. And the dragons, along with the aid of Naishara's newly regenerated magic, blasted fire and flames into the air, which caused them to explode in multicolored fireworks! Kida and Hiccup were finally happy for the first time ever.

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A while after the ceremony, Astrid and Thorin led Hanson and Elfrin, both blindfolded, behind them. "Come on, hurry up, hurry up, hurry up!" Thorin exclaimed. "You guys don't want to miss this!" Astrid said.

The two girls led the boys through the village, nearly avoiding collisions with the other villagers. Thorin almost led Elfrin straight into a pole. "Ouch! You know, you're not a very good blindfold guide!" Elfrin said, rubbing his face. Finally, the four stopped.

"Okay, here it is!" Astrid said. She and Thorin yanked the blindfolds off of Elfrin and Hanson. A beautiful brand-new sled stood before them. "Ta-da!" Thorin exclaimed. "Astrid and I both owe you guys a new sled!" Hanson was rather taken aback by this offer. "You're serious?!" Hanson exclaimed. "You guys are too kind, but we can't accept this."

"Ha, but you guys have to," Astrid laughed. "We accept no returns. Chief's orders. And speaking of the chief," Astrid gestured over to Stormfly and RockJaw, who both presented the boys with custom-made medallions, "Hiccup has named you two the official Berk ice masters and deliverers."

"Ha, that's not even a thing," Elfrin chimed in. "Of course it is!" Thorin said. "And, the best part is, it's even got a portable storage case and a cup holder! You guys like it?"

"Like it? We love it!" Hanson exclaimed, picking up Astrid and gleefully spinning her around. "I can't believe you did this for us!" Elfrin told Thorin. "We didn't just do it for you guys," Thorin said. "Hiccup did this for your hard work and effort!"

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Not too far away, Nia was happily enjoying her new permanent form. Kids everywhere smiled at the creature before her, and Nia happily waved her wings in joy. Soon, her eyes caught a small bunch of tiny daisies. She held them up to her nose and took a deep sniff. Suddenly, she sneezedâ€|and shot straight into Toothless' snout!

Toothless kindly wiggled his head, trying to get Nia off of his face. Nia finally unstuck herself from Toothless and petted his face as Toothless grew accustomed to her.

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Just past Nia, Hiccup found something that made him smile. The gates to the Hall of Heroes were wide open! Kida stood at the center of the courtyard. Everywhere, people were anxiously waiting in excitement. And parts of the Great Hall that were destroyed earlier were now fully repairedâ€¦with beautifully intertwined trees and branches!

"Are you ready?" Kida asked the entire crowd. Everyone nodded yes excitedly and cheered. Then, Kida took a step forward and swirled her hands in the air. She had created a crystal green ice rink right in the middle of the plaza! Snowflakes drifted through the air as people skated excitedly through the ice.

"The gates are open," Hiccup said. "I like it." "It is so exciting to see us, finally together as a family!" Valka exclaimed, hugging her children. "Let's never close the gates," Kida told Hiccup. "We're never losing each other again." With a wink, Kida pulled Hiccup out onto the ice and getting him to skate. "Whoa Kida! My prosthetic leg wasn't built for this!" Hiccup laughed. "Just follow my lead!" Kida exclaimed gleefully.

Behind them, Toothless ventured out onto the ice. His skating was a little rusty, but he tried to maintain his balance. Nia flitted excitedly through the air as Winter and North joined in for ice skating. Not too far away, Astrid and Hanson tried to keep Stormfly from twisting and sliding in the ice. Thorin and Elfrin both shared this excitement with RockJaw as well.

And last came Kristoff and Altaira, who slid over to join Hiccup and his family. together, they all skated happily on the ice. Balance, as well as peace, love, and happiness, were finally restored in Berk. And if you ever had the chance to let go of your fears and become who you are, every one of us has to believe in ourselves. Wouldn't you?

End
file.